A

FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-128
Tuesday
5 July 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-128 CONTENTS *5 July 1994*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

- 'Arafat Speaks on Arrival in Gaza *[Jerusalem International]* 1
- Police Detain Photographer, Deny Assassination Bid *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 2
  - Camera Lens Mistaken for Pistol *[AFP]* 2
- IBA Guards Linked With Assassination Rumors Released *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
- Al-Husayni Comments on Alleged Assassination Bid *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 3
- 'Arafat Chairs First National Authority Meeting *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
- 'Arafat Urges Opposition To Take Part in Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
- 'Arafat Holds News Conference on Goals, Jerusalem *[MENA]* 4
- 'Arafat Meets Israeli Arab Deputy Minister *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
- Israeli Offer To Extend Authority to Nabulus Rejected *[MENA]* 5
- 'Arafat Addresses Jabalyah Residents *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
- 'Arafat: Israeli Demonstrators 'Exaggerating' *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 6
- Sha'th: 'Arafat To Live Permanently in Gaza-Jericho *[Cairo International]* 6
- Sha'th Addresses Palestinians on 'Arafat's Gaza Visit *[Jericho VOP]* 7
- Sha'th Notes Non-Delivery of Promised Donations *[AFP]* 8
- 'Arafat Criticizes 'Slow Action' by Donor Countries *[Algiers VOP]* 8
- 'Arafat Meets With Western Envoys, Urges Aid Soon *[AFP]* 8
- 'Arafat Complains of Lack of Funds From U.S., Arabs *[AFP]* 9
- 'Arafat Meets Hamas Leader's Brother in Gaza *[MENA]* 10
  - Further on 'Arafat-Yasin Meeting *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 10
- 'Arafat Meets Israeli Arabs, Urges Prisoners' Release *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 10
- 'Arafat Tours Gaza, Forced To Avoid Settler Blockade *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
- 'Arafat Said Fearful of Enraged Jewish Protesters *[Amman TV]* 11
- Preparations for 'Arafat Jericho Visit Detailed *[MENA]* 11
  - Further on Preparations for Visit to Jericho *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
- AFP Describes 'Arafat's Activities in Gaza 12
- Sha'th Details 'Arafat's Schedule for Jericho *[AFP]* 12
- Sha'th Says 'Arafat To Return 9 Jul 'for Good' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 13
- 'Arafat Meets With Islamic Jihad, Assails Donor States *[Jerusalem International]* 13
- Islamic Jihad Denies Meeting 'Arafat in Gaza *[Al-Quds Radio]* 14
- 'Arafat Addresses Fatah Cadres in Gaza *[MENA]* 14
- Gaza Hamas Leader Rejects 'Arafat's Call for Unity *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 15
- Gazan Detained for Throwing 'Object' at 'Arafat's Car *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 15
- Man With Pistol Arrested Outside 'Arafat Meeting *[AFP]* 15
- 'Arafat Said To Put Away Trademark Pistol *[AFP]* 16
- 'Arafat Confirms Return to Gaza After Stop in Tunis *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 16
- Police Chief Reports 'Arafat Tours Gaza in 'Secret' *[AFP]* 17
  - 'Arafat Returns to Hotel After 'Tour' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 17
- 'Arafat Said To Leave Gaza for Jericho *[AFP]* 17
- Israel Police Reportedly Escort 'Arafat Entourage *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
- Settlers Plan To Disrupt 'Arafat's Jericho Visit *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 18
- 'Arafat Arrives in Jericho; Settlers Block Roads *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
- 'Arafat Addresses Cheering Jericho Masses *[Jerusalem International]* 18
- Authority Members Sworn In Before 'Arafat in Jericho *[Jerusalem International]* 19
- Damascus Reports PPSF's Criticism of 'Arafat Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 20
- PFLP-GC Assails 'Arafat's 'Sadatist' Visit *[Al-Quds Radio]* 20
- Dissident Fatah Denounces 'Arafat Gaza Visit *[Al-Quds Radio]* 20
- First Palestinian Radio Beams Test Programs *[AFP]* 21
- Al-Quds Protests 'Arafat's 'Appropriating' Frequency *[Al-Quds Radio]* 21

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

- Mubarak Interviewed on 'Arafat's Return to Gaza *[MENA]* 23
  - Discusses Jerusalem, Settlements *[Cairo Radio]* 23
- Musa Urges End to 'Regrettable' Fighting in Yemen *[MENA]* 23
  - Envoy Returns From Yemen, Comments *[MENA]* 23

Sudan

- Al-Bashir Addresses Nation on Revolution Anniversary *[Omdurman Radio]* 24
- Al-Mahdi Disowns Alleged Antigovernment Plot *[AFP]* 25

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Yemen

- First Unilateral Cease-Fire Announced by Aden *[AFP]* 26
  - Cease-Fire Reportedly Breaks Down *[AFP]* 26
- Northern Troops Reportedly Advance on al-Bid Base 27
  - North Forces 5 Km From al-Mukalla *[AFP]* 27
  - Northern Troops Capture al-Mukalla *[AFP]* 27
  - Sanaa 'Source' Confirms Fall of al-Mukalla *[Sanaa Radio]* 27
  - Al-'Ansi: Al-Mukalla Under Government Control *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 28
  - Aden 'Source' Denies Fall of al-Mukalla *[Kuwait TV]* 29
- Northern Yemen Accused of Using Chemical Weapons *[KUNA]* 29
  - Sanaa Denies Charges *[AFP]* 29
- 'Rebels' Accused of Using Napalm, Phosphorous Bombs *[Baghdad Radio]* 29
- North Hit Aden Airport; ICRC Warning on Water *[AFP]* 30
- Latest Casualties Reported; Fighting Update *[AFP]* 30
- 'Fierce' Clashes Reported in Aden Suburbs *[MENA]* 31
- 'Worst Day of Shelling' Leaves 32 Civilians Dead *[AFP]* 31
- Shelling of Dar Sa'd Interrupts ICRC Mission *[Sanaa Radio]* 31
- North Says Aden Water Facilities Destroyed by South *[Sanaa Radio]* 32
- Salih Said To Order Aden Water System Repaired *[AFP]* 32
- Foreign Help To Restore Aden's Water Supply Welcomed *[Sanaa Radio]* 33
- ICRC Warns of Clean Water Situation in Aden *[Bern Radio]* 34
- Official Demands Water Repair Equipment From Aden *[Sanaa Radio]* 34
- 'Rebel' Planes Reportedly Raid Aden Water Plant *[Sanaa Radio]* 35
- Brahimi Sees No 'Real Desire' for Cease-Fire *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Jul]* 35
- UN Officials Assess Shortage of Medicine, Food *[INA]* 36
- Salih, Butrus-Ghali Discuss Cease-Fire, Aden Water *[Sanaa Radio]* 37
- Salih Regrets 'Brothers' Interference in Affairs *[Sanaa Radio]* 37
- Al-'Attar Receives U.S. Ambassador, UN Official *[Sanaa Radio]* 38
- U.S. Reportedly Ends Opposition to Aden Recognition *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 38
- Al-Iryani: 'New Secessionists' Control Aden *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 39
- 'Legitimate' Forces Return Aden Radio To Air *[INA]* 40
- 'Abd-al-Ghani on Commitment to Moscow Cease-Fire *[Sanaa Radio]* 40
- Basindwah Comments on Moscow Cease-Fire *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 2 Jul]* 41
- 'Abd-al-Ghani Meets With UNSC Envoys *[Sanaa Radio]* 42
- Council Member Meets Egyptian, Saudi, Kuwaiti Envoys *[Sanaa Radio]* 42
- Egyptian Envoy Leaves Sanaa, 'Satisfied' With Visit *[Sanaa Radio]* 42
- House Briefed on Delegation's Visit to Syria, Lebanon *[Sanaa Radio]* 43
- Sources: Syrian, Bulgarian Pilots Recruited for South *[INA]* 43
- YSP Leader Appeals for International Aid for South *[Kuwait TV]* 44
- Southern Council Asks For International Support *[MENA]* 44
- Southern Council Member Expects UN Protection *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 4 Jul]* 44
- YSP Official Views Moscow Agreement, U.S. Policy *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 45
  - Discusses U.S., Foreign Roles *[AL-SHIRA' 4 Jul]* 46
- Moscow Agreement Seen As Way Around UN Resolution *[KUNA]* 47

  - Southern Official Urges UN, U.S., To Interfere *[MENA]* 48
  - South Yemen Reportedly Bans Alcoholic Drinks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 48

IRAQ

- UN Special Commission Chief Ekeus Arrives for Talks *[INA]* 49
  - Meets With Tariq 'Aziz *[INA]* 49
- Opposition Reports Attempt To Kill 'Udayy Husayn *[KUNA]* 49
- Three Detained Egyptians Reportedly Released *[MENA]* 49

ISRAEL

- Officials, Media React to 'Arafat Visit, Meeting 50
  - Rabin Adopts Hands-Off Approach *[Jerusalem TV]* 50
  - Rabin on Visit; Funds To Go to Palestinians *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 50
  - Peres Welcomes Visit as 'Historic Event' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
  - HA'ARETZ Welcomes 'Arafat Arrival *[3 Jul]* 51
  - Sharon Opposes 'Arafat Arrival *[Rome L'UNITA 1 Jul]* 51
- Leaders React to 'Arafat's Arrival Speech in Gaza 53
  - Peres Comments on Speech, Other Issues *[Jerusalem Radio]* 53
  - Likud's Netanyahu Comments *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 54
- Minister Meets With 'Arafat; MP Meeting Cancelled 56
  - 'High-Ranking' 'Arafat Meeting Sought *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 56
  - Minister Discusses 'Unofficial' Meeting *[AFP]* 56
  - Ten Labor MP's To Meet 'Arafat *[AFP]* 56
  - 'Arafat Meeting Canceled at Rabin's Request *[Jerusalem Radio]* 56
- Right-Wing Rallies in Jerusalem Protest 'Arafat Visit 57
  - Police Prepare for Mass Rally *[Jerusalem TV]* 57
  - 'Tens of Thousands' Attend Rally *[Jerusalem Radio]* 57
  - Netanyahu Comments; U.S. Consulate Stoned *[Jerusalem Radio]* 57
  - Cabinet Discusses Protest *[Jerusalem Radio]* 58
  - Ministers on Protests, Assassination Attempt *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 58
  - Police Clash With Settlers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 59
- Rabin Rejects Mubarak Proposal for Tripartite Meeting *[Jerusalem TV]* 59
- IDF Denies Generals Approached Sha'th on Meeting *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 59
- Beilin on Syria Talks; 'Secret' Paper Disclosed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 59
- Commentary Calls on Rabin To Stop Syria Threats *[HA'ARETZ 1 Jul]* 61
- Official on Iranian, Syrian Roles in South Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 62
- Knesset Rejects 3 No-Confidence Motions *[Jerusalem TV]* 62
  - Likud Demands Rabin Reply to Motions *[Jerusalem TV]* 62
- Peres Leaves on Official Visit to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 62
- Rabin Addresses Labor CC Convention *[Jerusalem Radio]* 63

JORDAN

- Husayn Returns From 'Successful' U.S. Visit *[Amman TV]* 65
- Council of Ministers Discusses King's U.S. Visit *[Amman TV]* 65
  - Al-Majali on King's U.S. Talks, Debts *[JORDAN TIMES 4 Jul]* 66
- Talks With Israel To Begin 'Second Half' of Jul *[Amman TV]* 66
  - Al-'Anani Discusses Commission Meetings *[Amman TV]* 67
- Minister: 'Arafat's Return 'Major Development' *[Amman TV]* 67
- Paper Views Importance of 'Arafat's Return to Gaza *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 2 Jul]* 67
- Columnist Ridicules 'Arafat's Call for Confederation *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 3 Jul]* 68

LEBANON

- Al-Hirawi: No Lebanese Territory To Be Relinquished *[Voice of the South]* 69
- Al-Hirawi on Meeting With al-Asad, U.S. Contacts *[AL-SHIRA' 4 Jul]* 69

SYRIA

Reaction to 'Arafat's Return to Gaza Reported *[Damascus TV]* 70
  Papers Denounce 'Arafat's Visit *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 70
Commentary on U.S. Efforts in Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 70
Israeli Attacks in Lebanon Said Pressuring U.S. *[Damascus Radio]* 71
Editorial Warns Against Israel-Controlled Middle East *[Damascus Radio]* 71
Government 'Undeterred' by Rabin Statements on War *[Damascus Radio]* 72

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Fresh Fighting Reported in Wardak Province *[Tehran Radio]* 73
Coordination Council Agrees to ICO Cease-Fire Request *[Tehran Radio]* 73
  Rabbani, Hekmatyar Accept ICO Invitation *[Tehran Radio]* 73
  UN, ICO To Cooperate on Latest Initiative *[IRNA]* 73

Iran

Yazdi Refutes Peres' Remarks on Islamism *[Tehran Radio]* 74
Majles Officials Meet With Yemeni Delegation *[IRNA]* 74
Protestant Clergyman Murdered in Tehran *[AFP]* 74

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Speaks on Arrival in Gaza

JN0107151694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1410 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza's Legislative Council Square—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [repeated four times, following interruptions by cheering crowd] We will, without doubt, help our apostles and those who believe, both in this world's life and on the day when the witnesses will stand forth. [Koranic verse] [applause, followed by a repeat of the verse]

O my kinfolk, all of my kinfolk; O my people, all of my clan [applause]; O my brothers; O struggling prisoner brother Ahmad Yasin [applause]; O my imprisoned brothers; O my brother prisoners and detainees; O our wounded, all of our wounded; O our detained sisters—'Abir and Rabihah and their sisters; O mothers, wives, and sisters of martyrs, the most honorable among us [applause]: On this day we [words indistinct], on this day we [shouts of "with our souls and blood we redeem you, Palestine, Abu-'Ammar (Yasir 'Arafat) and Abu-Jihad (Khalil al-Wazir)" interrupt 'Arafat]

Brothers, beloved ones, kinsfolk: Today we meet together on the land of Palestine in struggling Gaza [applause]. Today, I extend my best greetings to all prisoners and detainees, headed by the honorable Shaykh Ahmad Yasin [applause]. I tell him: Be reassured, brother Ahmad Yasin [applause] that we will not bat an eyelid or have a clear conscience [words indistinct] until we see you standing with us here, here, here, here [applause].

O my brothers, regarding the issue of male and female detainees, brothers and sisters, their release may have been delayed. Yes, their release has been delayed. The reason is that we refused to bargain over a prisoner or detainee [applause]. Yes, we refused to bargain over a prisoner or a detainee. We want them all and reject bargaining. [applause]

The issue of the male and female detainees is a major issue for us. We will not feel proud unless we see them among us. Yes, my brothers and people. I also tell you something else. I say that circumstances now impose on us much work for national unity. [applause] National unity is our protective shield. It is the shield of this march, and the shield of this people. Therefore, we should take care of unity. [applause]

Brothers, while we are here in Gaza, we recall the martyrs of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque. [applause] Yes, while we are here in Gaza, we will go to the holy Ibrahimi Mosque. [applause] We will also go to Nabulus, Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqiliyah, Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, Bayt Jala, Ramallah, and after Hebron, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Jerusalem [applause] to pray there. Yes, we have pledged to the martyrs to pray for their souls at the first of the two qiblahs and the third holiest mosque, the point of departure for Prophet Muhammad's midnight journey to the seven heavens, and the cradle of Jesus Christ, may God's peace be upon him.

Here I tell the Israeli people that while we recognize your holy places in holy Jerusalem, you should recognize our Islamic and Christian holy places. [applause]

Yes, my brothers and beloved ones, I tell the Israeli people with whom we signed, through their prime minister, Mr. Rabin, the peace of the brave, that the peace of the brave needs further courage from all of us in order to maintain and continue this peace.

Yes, we must preserve this peace accord which we have signed. Exactly as we said and say to our righteous martyrs: A pledge is a pledge and a promise is a promise. Yes, brothers and beloved ones. We now have a great, a very great, job to do. When I say we have a great job to do, I mean what I say. I emphasize that we need relentless work to build our national Palestinian authority, and then, our free, independent state [applause and chants].

From this land of Palestine, this blessed land, I tell my brother Arab leaders that we adhere to the pledge that we have made together for the sake of the Arab nation and its existence, future, loftiness, and sovereignty [applause and chants].

Yes, brothers, I tell my brothers, who hosted your brothers of the Palestinian security forces: Thank you for this hosting, accommodation, and care. I tell my brother President Husni Mubarak with whom I arrived up to Rafah: Thank you, thank you, thank you.

I also say to my brothers in the Arab Maghreb summit, particularly our Tunisian brothers, led by my brother President Zine El Abidine: Thank you for what you have offered to the revolution. Yes, thanks to my brothers in the Arab Maghreb summit, thanks. [applause]

Yes, my brothers, I say to my Arab brothers, who have embraced the Palestinian revolution and its forces from Morocco to Mauritania, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, which transported these Palestinian forces to here, the homeland. From here, I send my warm kisses to the children of the stones, the children of the stones, the children of the stones [applause]. From here, I send from the West Bank, from Palestine, my greeting, all my greetings, to the steadfast southern Lebanese, to the Lebanese masses, to our kinsfolk in Lebanon, to the Lebanese, and to Palestinians in the Lebanese camps. [applause]

Yes, yes, I remind you, when we talk about Arab relations, that we say what we said to all our brothers in the Gulf, who helped us. I also say the same to our brothers in Jordan. I remind them and I also remind His Majesty King Husayn of the decision of our National Council on Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. [applause]

Yes, my brothers, yes, my brothers, I remind you that we have in front of us great, great, great, great missions; great missions to build this homeland. Yes, to build this homeland and to rebuild our institutions that the occupation has destroyed. Yes, if we want to build them, we should all be like one man. We want to build a homeland of free people, for free people, a homeland of democracy, freedom, and equality. [applause] Yes, a homeland of free people, a homeland of free people.

In the name of God. O my brothers, O my brothers: I send a resounding greeting to our brothers from the Negev Desert to the Galilee. [applause] And we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders and make them heirs, to establish a firm place for them in land. [Koranic verse]

Together, together, together, together, together. [applause]

Police Detain Photographer, Deny Assassination Bid

TA0107172694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Our lead story this evening is a report that an assassination attempt on Yasir 'Arafat took place this afternoon during 'Arafat's speech in Gaza. The attempt failed. Mikha Friedman and the IDF Radio team have the details:

[Friedman] Good evening from Gaza. We are still treating this story very carefully, despite the fact that we were the first to come across it. All I can say for certain, after I looked into the matter personally through my sources, is that the Palestinian police are holding a press photographer—and we do not know whether he is an Israeli or an Arab—who had a gun in his possession. According to eyewitness testimony we have acquired, people who were very close to the man say he was holding a sort of camera that in fact was an improvised gun that he intended to aim at Yasir 'Arafat, who at the time had only started his speech. The assailant, according to the three testimonies we have, was about to point this improvised gun at Yasir 'Arafat. The crowd noticed him, charged at him, threw him to the ground, and called the Palestinian police, who took him away in chains. According to the testimony, a second person apparently connected to this event, is being held by the police. [passage omitted]

This is the story, if indeed it is a story, and we must be very careful about it. It is very hard to work here today or find our regular sources and verify this story. The rumor spread very fast around town, and almost everyone we asked had heard about this. To sum up, I can say for certain that the Palestinian police are holding a photographer, whose nationality is unknown, and who was found in possession of a gun. We will know more about this later on. [end Friedman]

Thank you Mikha. In the meantime, two PLO sources have denied the report. Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Palestinian security service, denies that there has been an assassination attempt or that anyone had been arrested on such grounds. Dhiyab al-Law[illegible], head of the PLO media department in the Gaza Strip, also denied the report.

Camera Lens Mistaken for Pistol

NC0107165994 Paris AFP in English 1649 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 1 (AFP)—Palestinian police detained a Palestinian in the mistaken belief that he had concealed a pistol in photographic equipment, a police chief told AFP.

They denied reports on Israel radio of an assassination attempt.

"No way was there any assassination attempt," General Sa'ib al-'Ajiz, Gaza City police commander.

"What happened was a security guard thought that a zoom lense on camera was a pistol. I have the camera here.

"The owner of the camera was briefly arrested and released and we apologized. We will give him his camera back later today.

An AFP reporter who witnessed the arrest confirmed the police version of events.

The man who was detained was not a photographer, just a bystander.

IBA Guards Linked With Assassination Rumors Released

TA0207084594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] The Palestinian police in Gaza City yesterday arrested two Israel Broadcasting Authority [IBA] security guards. The police were acting on the orders of Yasir 'Arafat. The guards were arrested near the stage in the square where 'Arafat was making his speech. They were found in possession of a handgun for which they had a permit. One of 'Arafat's bodyguards told the chairman that a Jew armed with a handgun had been captured near the stage and 'Arafat ordered the police to arrest the two men. That was when rumors began to spread that a man had been captured in an attempt to assassinate 'Arafat.

After the two men were interrogated, it became clear that such claims were totally unfounded and that the two IBA guards were licensed to carry handguns. Our correspondent Moti Amir notes that the Cairo agreement stipulates that Israelis with gun permits can bring their weapons into the Palestinian autonomous areas. The two IBA security guards were released this morning after lengthy negotiations between Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', the head of the joint security committee with the Palestinians, and Yasir 'Arafat.

A Palestinian source told our correspondent that Palestinian security officials in Gaza were now discussing the possibility of attaching a Palestinian policeman to Israeli television and radio crews in order to guarantee their safety.

Al-Husayni Comments on Alleged Assassination Bid

TA0307162694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni by Razi Barqay and Ge'ula Even; place not given—live; in English]

[Text] [Even] Good afternoon now to Mr. Faysal al-Husayni.

[Al-Husayni] Good afternoon.

[Even] The first question that we would like to ask you is what you can tell us about an assassination attempt against Yasir 'Arafat during his speech to the people of Gaza Friday afternoon. is there any truth to this story?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, we do not have anyone confirm it to me. Yes, there were a sort of strange move in a certain moment in the place but I do not believe that is something we can consider a try to assassinate.

[Even, translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Now, what do you know about his plans for tomorrow and for the day after tomorrow? When is he going to Jericho for example?

[Al-Husayni] He is going to Jericho after tomorrow, not tomorrow [5 July]. I believe there is some logistic problems which make the coming to Jericho after tomorrow.

[Even] How is he going to get to Jericho? By car, or...what do you know about that?

[Al-Husayni] Maybe by airplane more than car.

[Even translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Another question: have you heard anything about a possibility of releasing Shaykh Yasin from the Israeli jail?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, this is one of the things that Yasir 'Arafat was all the time asking Rabin for and the Israeli Government. Really, he is fully hoping that this demand will be implemented.

[Even, interrupting] But you do not know?

[Al-Husayni] No, no. I can't confirm that.

[Even translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Last question, please. What about the future plan in the long run? When is he going to settle down in Gaza or in Jericho, or another question that we would all like to know: are you going to meet him one day in the Orient House for example?

[Al-Husayni] First we hope that he will come back immediately in the end of this trip which maybe it will include some days in Tunis. But he will come back here and he will be settled here to lead his people from his own homeland. About seeing him, meeting him in the Orient House, for sure we would like to see him in the Orient but I believe that it needs certain political circumstances which to my feeling is not proper now.

[Even translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Mr. al-Husayni, thank you very much and good evening.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

'Arafat Chairs First National Authority Meeting

JN0107204294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Report by Sophia 'Amarah from Gaza; from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Gaza today hosted the first meeting between Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and members of the National Authority, which has been set up to administer the self-rule areas. In a speech on this historic meeting, the Palestinian president stressed the importance of starting to build the Palestinian homeland. He said that this country will either be a new Somalia or a new economic tiger.

'Arafat expressed confidence in what he termed the Palestinian ability, which can face up to the peace challenge, as he put it. He continued: We have signed the peace of the brave. Our views may differ, but if a Palestinian child signs an agreement on behalf of the Palestinian people, we will be committed to his signature. So it is the case if the signing is made by a Palestinian delegation or authority. We will build the peace of the brave and preserve it. To the prisoners and detainees, I say: Patience. God is our supporter.

In a separate development, the Palestinian president stressed that the Jewish people, whose holy places we respect, should respect the Palestinian holy places, both Muslim and Christian. During a news conference which he held after his meeting with the senior Palestinian officials, 'Arafat stressed that the Israelis were occupiers, and that they have become neighbors.

In response to a question on when he will return home, 'Arafat responded: How can you ask me this question while I am in the homeland?

'Arafat Urges Opposition To Take Part in Elections

TA0207054494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat last night convened the members of the Palestinian Authority. Speaking at a late night news conference, 'Arafat said he was upset by the failure of donor nations to make good on promised aid for the self-ruled government. He also said that the most important challenge is to build a new Palestinian Authority, which he said, would lead to an independent Palestinian state. Mark Weiss reports from Gaza:

[Weiss] Speaking last night in Gaza City to members of the Palestinian Autonomy Council, Yasir 'Arafat said he was here to stay and promised them that a Palestinian state would be established. Eighteen of the 20 members of the council were present, with only Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] absent.

Speaking at the meeting, 'Arafat called on Israel to carry out a military redeployment in the West Bank by August in order to allow the Palestinians to prepare for democratic elections as soon as possible. The PLO leader said he wants to deepen the peace treaty but needs foreign money to do so. Calling the foreign pledges of financial aid for the autonomy merely ink on paper and promises, promises, 'Arafat expressed dismay over the possibility of taxing Palestinians in the territories. He also called on Israel to return the deductions taken from Palestinian workers over the years.

Continuing the call for Palestinian unity made during yesterday's speech in the main square in Gaza City, the PLO leader said negotiations have taken place with the Islamic opposition because he wants these groups to participate in the building of a democratic homeland.

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 2 July adds that 'Arafat noted that "six vacant seats had been left on the Autonomy Council in the hope that they would be taken by organizations opposed to the peace process, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Their participation was crucial, 'Arafat said, noting that his invitation was still valid."]

Primarily because of security considerations, no details have been released concerning 'Arafat's schedule for today or for the rest of the visit although the first working session of the Autonomy Council may take place in Gaza today. And there are also reports that 'Arafat will visit the Jabalyah refugee camp north of Gaza City, the birthplace of the intifadah.

According to Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat will stay until Tuesday [5 July] and will spend the day in Jericho, although he did not say which day.

Furayh Abu-Middayn, justice minister in the autonomy said the Autonomy Council will swear allegiance in front of 'Arafat in Jericho on Monday. He also claimed that 'Arafat will leave on Wednesday.

So far there has been no Israeli confirmation to reports by Nabil Sha'th that a high-level Israeli delegation will visit Gaza today and meet with 'Arafat.

'Arafat Holds News Conference on Goals, Jerusalem

NC0207085094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza, 2 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has praised the major and important role played by Egypt and President Husni Mubarak in reaching the 4 May Israeli-Palestinian Agreement on autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

At a news conference attended by foreign correspondents at his place of residence in the Palestine Hotel in Gaza early this morning, 'Arafat said the agreement came about as a result of Egypt and President Mubarak's efforts. He explained that during the negotiations leading up to the agreement, he would ask President Mubarak and his senior aides to intervene in every issue large or small to solve the problems with the Israelis.

'Arafat added: We will not forget how President Mubarak escorted me on foot to the last checkpoint at the Egyptian border to bid me farewell as I returned to my homeland.

'Arafat stressed that the Palestinians regard Egypt as the big sister and consequently a party that has a big responsibility.

He declared: We depend on Egypt and cannot do without it. I am certain we will obtain a lot through Egypt.

Describing the Palestinian leadership's priorities, 'Arafat said: There is much to do, first, rebuilding the ruined infrastructure.

In this connection he said the promises made by donor countries remain promises on paper and are as yet unfulfilled.

'Arafat remarked: We must admit that the situation is difficult. But I am sure our nation will make sacrifices to build the national authority as a first step toward an independent state.

Regarding the legislative election in Gaza, the Palestinian president said this was originally scheduled for July according to the agreement but the implementation of the agreement was delayed by the Israelis and the Palestinian forces entered on 17 May 1994 instead of the original date of 13 December 1993.

'Arafat said he wants the election to be held as soon as possible and without the presence of Israeli occupation troops on any Palestinian territory. He noted that the election must be held no later than August, when the Israeli forces will be redeployed away from Palestinian population centers.

Asked when the Palestinian National Authority members will be sworn in, president 'Arafat said this would take place in Jericho. But he did not specify a date.

MENA has learned that the swearing-in ceremony will be held tomorrow, Sunday [3 July], during 'Arafat's visit to Jericho.

'Arafat refused to have his return to his homeland described as a visit and announced: For the first time since I went into exile in 1968, I will be starting a journey abroad, in this case the European city of Paris, from the territory of my homeland. I will be starting all my journeys to international meetings, conferences, and official visits from my homeland.

He added: As I return I feel that I have fulfilled the pledge I made and the oath I swore to my brother martyrs who fell for the cause of our Palestinian land.

On his forthcoming meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Paris, 'Arafat said: We will discuss several issues, primarily that of the Palestinian detainees, the early handover of the remaining Palestinian territories to the Palestinian authority, and issues that have not been resolved yet.

He added: This peace we have achieved needs Rabin's effort and ours to continue.

He stressed that there must be a just and comprehensive peace on all the Syrian, Jordanian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks.

The Palestinian president highlighted the importance of inter-Palestinian meetings with all the factions in the opposition. He said: My heart, conscience, and mind are with my brothers in all the factions except those who receive their orders from outside the Palestinian arena.

Stressing that he wants democracy in the National Authority, the Palestinian president said: We are proud of this democracy because we want to build a free homeland for all the free and honest people where equality, justice, and fraternity will prevail.

He noted that he will meet later today in Gaza with Western consuls, Israeli Knesset members, and Israeli peace delegations. He stressed in this regard the importance of maintaining peace.

On criticism that the National Authority chose the members of the police force on a factional basis, 'Arafat said this was not true because the Palestinian police represent the entire Palestinian people.

'Arafat met representatives of the foreign press before the news conference. He stressed to them that the national authority is facing several challenges, adding: We can protect peace and correctly implement what has been agreed on in cooperation with our Israeli neighbors.

On the status of Jerusalem, the Palestinian president stressed that he has no worries about this issue because the Israelis know that Jerusalem is not only holy for the Jews, but also for Muslims and Christians. He said: We respect their holy places and they should respect our feelings and our Christian and Muslim religions. He added that if he gets the opportunity to go to Jerusalem to pray, he will seize it.

He stressed that the important challenge facing the Palestinian people and its leadership is the building of the new National Authority that will lead to the independent Palestinian state. He added: Protecting the peace process and establishing our state's infrastructure are the most important tasks before the Palestinian people and its leadership now.

'Arafat Meets Israeli Arab Deputy Minister

TA0207092294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Deputy Agriculture Minister Walid Sadiq met last night with Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza. This was 'Arafat's first official meeting with an Israeli representative inside the Palestinian autonomous area. During the meeting, 'Arafat pointed out that the statements he made in his speech with regard to Israeli Arabs did not constitute incitement.

'Arafat told Walid Sadiq that his remarks were made out of awareness of the fact that Israel's Arabs, who are Israeli citizens of Palestinian origin, have a positive role to play in the peace process.

Our correspondent Qaysar Kabaha reports that 'Arafat told Deputy Minister Sadiq that he was very pleased with the reception he received in Gaza City.

Israeli Offer To Extend Authority to Nablus Rejected

NC0207104994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Tunis, 2 Jul (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have revealed that the PLO has rejected an Israeli proposal to extend the National Authority to the city of Nablus in the occupied West Bank in September 1994.

The sources said the PLO rejected the proposal because it was outside the clauses of the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington and the agreement signed in Cairo to implement Palestinian self-rule.

The sources added that the Palestinian authority welcomed the Israeli withdrawal from any Palestinian town or village but saw in the Israeli proposal a curtailment [tahjiman] of the process of extending Palestinian jurisdiction to all the occupied West Bank.

'Arafat issued orders on Thursday [30 June] appointing a national committee to supervise the Nablus municipality and take it over from the municipal committee appointed by the Israeli occupation forces following the dissolution of the elected municipal councils in the early eighties.

'Arafat Addresses Jabalyah Residents

TA0207163294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Launching his tour of the Gaza Strip today, 'Arafat delivered an approximately 30-minute speech in a Jabalyah refugee camp school yard. He was surrounded by about 10,000 enthusiastic local residents.

'Arafat said in his speech: I know the peace agreement is not the best possible, but it is the best we could achieve after many years of suffering, and we will honor this agreement. Our correspondent Moti Amir covered the Jabalyah visit and he reports:

[Amir] Good afternoon. Just a few minutes ago, Yasir 'Arafat ended a long speech in the yard of the al-Faluj School in the Jabalyah refugee camp. In his speech, the PLO chief called on all the organizations to join the peace process, stressing that the agreement he signed was designed for all: for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Arab Liberation Front, and many other organizations, the names of all of which he mentioned. It is here, in the Jabalyah refugee camp, that the intifadah started under mine and Abu-Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir] command, he said, eliciting cheers and chants of the slogan, "We Shall Redeem Thee, Abu-'Amar ['Arafat], With Spirit and Blood." He immediately corrected the slogan, urging his audience to chant, "We Shall Redeem Palestine With Spirit and Blood" and joining in the singing. [passage omitted]

This is what 'Arafat said to his supporters at al-Faluj School: The agreement we signed may not have been the best, but it was the best we could achieve in the dire circumstances in which the Arab world has been to date. We call it an agreement of the courageous, and we will honor this agreement of the courageous just as we have pledged. [passage omitted]

He then called on the other side: I expect the other side, Israel, to likewise honor its commitment to the agreement by releasing female prisoners and all the Palestinian prisoners. These remarks were naturally received with cheers and joyful shouts. [passage omitted]

The speech, which began in a strident tone, gradually softened. 'Arafat reiterated his [1 July] statement about moving from Jabalyah to Hebron to Nabulus to Tulkarm to Bethlehem, and then on to Jerusalem, too. These remarks were greeted with a joyous roar. Some people in the crowd repeatedly shouted the name of Ahmad Yasin, and then 'Arafat again referred to the Hamas leader's name. The Jabalyah crowd included a group of Hamas supporters who came to listen to the speech but kept interrupting. [passage omitted]

'Arafat went on to say: We expect Israel to lift the closure off Jerusalem. This pronouncement, too, was received with cheers. He concluded his speech by stating that he expected the State of Israel to reopen the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

'Arafat: Israeli Demonstrators 'Exaggerating'

TA0207174094 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1658 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by 'Anat Saragusti in Jabalyah on 2 July—recorded in progress, in English]

[Text] ['Arafat] ...which we were facing until we succeed to sign the peace of the brave, the peace of the brave that we implemented now on the ground.

[Saragusti] You know that tonight many people will be demonstrating against you in Jerusalem. What do you have to say to them? Do you have anything to tell them?

['Arafat] They are exaggerating the whole picture. They know that what they are saying is not accurate.

[Saragusti] They say that they don't believe you, they say that they....

['Arafat] If we speak in those terms, then how is it that German people and the French people, after a long, long, long confrontation in the first World War, and in the second World War, are now friends in the European Union—how?

Sha'th: 'Arafat To Live Permanently in Gaza-Jericho

NC0307091094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority and 'Arafat's "first adviser", in Gaza, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs. Good morning.

[Sha'th] Welcome to you. Good morning.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Sha'th, we begin our talk with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's tour of the Gaza Strip, where he inspected the local current conditions. Let us begin with a general description of President 'Arafat's first visit to Palestinian territory.

[Sha'th] The return of Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestinian endeavor, to the homeland—where free Palestinian flags now flutter and where Gaza's Palestinian populace enjoys the feeling of real freedom from occupation and fear for the first time—was a historic, splendid occasion. 'Arafat's entry was a truly splendid thing that showed the great warmth and true amity between the people and their leader. The people sensed their true identity and reaped the fruit of their struggle when they met with brother Yasir 'Arafat at the Unknown Soldier's Square on the grounds of the Legislative Council built during the Egyptian Administration of Gaza. It was a great thing.

The leader spoke about the struggle, emphasized national unity, honored the memory of the martyrs, addressed their families, and commended the detainees and prisoners who made sacrifices so that this day might come. He affirmed Palestine's Arab commitment. He addressed a greeting of love, loyalty, and commitment to Egypt and its leader Husni Mubarak, who have supported Palestine throughout the struggle. President Mubarak accompanied him to the last checkpoint on the Egyptian-Palestinian border. Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] spoke about all classes of the Palestinian people and stressed the commitment to the peace process, which he called the peace of the brave.

His visit to Jabaliya, the cradle of the revolution and birthplace of the intifadah, was also a splendid occasion where Abu-'Ammar met with Palestinian figures and urged national unity. He met with Palestinian delegations from many areas, foreign ambassadors and consuls, and Egyptian Ambassador Basyuni. These have been glorious days.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Sha'th, you have mentioned the Egyptian role. Naturally this is part of Egyptian policy, which has constantly supported the Palestinian cause until the Palestinian revolution finally began to operate from inside Palestinian territory. No doubt the Palestinian Authority faces many challenges in Gaza. The Palestinian National Authority members are due to be sworn in next Monday [4 July] in Jericho. Let us know some more about this issue.

[Sha'th] Jericho is the complementary part of the first Palestinian step toward liberty and independence. Jericho is a symbol, but Gaza is the real fact with a million citizens and numerous martyrs. Jericho is the symbol of the Palestinian march toward the West Bank, the remaining Palestinian soil, and Jerusalem. That is why the trip to Jericho on Monday is necessary to fulfill the linkage between the territories. The Palestinian National Authority ministers will be sworn in there, certifying their legitimacy and the true beginning of the exercise of national authority. Its tasks will involve tackling the major challenges referred to by President 'Arafat during his visit to Jabaliya. He said that those who carried out the revolution of the stones are now needed to build this homeland and our future with our own efforts and sacrifices.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Sha'th, following President 'Arafat's visit to Jericho he is scheduled to leave for Paris to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and receive the UNESCO peace prize. Does President 'Arafat plan to return to Gaza after visiting Paris?

[Sha'th] Immediately afterward. He will return to live here. This is his homeland. He returned early in order to meet with the people and start his journey to Paris from here. From Paris he will go to Tunis for an official farewell. Tunisia has embraced Yasir 'Arafat, the revolution, the PLO, and the Fatah Movement since 1982. After the official farewell there, Yasir 'Arafat will return to live permanently in his homeland.

[Al-Jundi] Brother Arabs, we conclude this dialogue by thanking Dr. Nabil Sha'th. He is always welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Sha'th] Thanks to you.

Sha'th Addresses Palestinians on 'Arafat's Gaza Visit

JN0207190794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Speech by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, to "the sons of the Palestinian people on Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's return to the homeland" on 2 July—recorded]

[Text] Brothers, the visit by brother President Yasir 'Arafat, Abu-'Ammar, or his return to the homeland, actually, is a historic event. I was associated with him for 30 years. I know that he has been waiting for this moment, the moment when he returns to the homeland. I have had the honor of accompanying him in the last stage of this journey, in the peace process, in signing the Declaration of Principles in Washington, the Cairo agreement which is the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and after this in the last hours, in bidding farewell to President Mubarak at the Rafah crossing point, and then entering Palestine, this historic and splendid entrance. It was a memorable moment in one's lifetime, and one of the happiest moments, that of the return of the leader, representing the Palestinian people's struggle, their armed and political struggle, their armed struggle outside the homeland, and the intifadah on the soil of the homeland, and all the elements of the struggle to confirm the Palestinian identity, regain the Palestinian land, and have the Palestinian people return to their land, not to mention the establishment of the Palestinian authority on Palestinian soil. All this has been embodied in the moments when he entered and returned to the homeland.

Then came the splendid meeting in front of the Legislative Council, and the referendum, the Palestinian people's referendum on the leader and the command, and on the peace process, and the forging of history. The result was brilliant: complete support from this militant people, support from the children of the stones, and from the men and women of steadfastness on the land of the homeland for the leader who led the struggle of this people for many years to achieve liberation, freedom, independence, and return. This referendum was one with very clear results and has worked wonders for the morale of Abu-'Ammar and all the brothers who witnessed this historic moment.

Today, in Jabaliyah, the leader and those accompanying him met with the people of Jabaliyah, with the women, children of Jabaliyah; Jabaliyah, from where the intifadah was launched, saw the leader return to it to reaffirm the Palestinian people's determination to score victory. He told them: The children of the stones had been the ones who paved the road of return to the homeland, they are the ones who forged the peace road, and we now seek your strong arms to map out the future and to work for the Palestinian state which today starts from here. He emphasized as he did yesterday, as we all did, the importance of national unity, of brother 'Arafat embracing hero Ahmad Yasin, and of releasing all the detainees.

Today, is the day for the liberation of man, the day for the liberation of the struggler, and a day for the liberation of the homeland. Today is the day when Palestinian identity is reconfirmed. The first steps of the independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital were taken today. Greetings to all the strugglers and to the Palestinian people.

Sha'th Notes Non-Delivery of Promised Donations

NC0207175294 Paris AFP in English 1709 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 2 (AFP)—International donors have given the Palestinian authority just 47.5 million dollars amid disagreeement over conditions for payment of more money, PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th told AFP.

"Until now we have received 10.5 million dollars for the police, five million for the authority, two million for prisoners, plus 30 million for building projects," said the "minister" for cooperation and planning.

"We were supposed to receive 350 million for the first six months but we have got only 47.5 million and six months have gone."

Donors pledged 720 million dollars for Palestinian self-rule during 1994, of which 180 million was to cover the authority's budget deficit.

"This situation is difficult," Sha'th admitted.

He said the donors promised to forward 42 million quickly at the last meeting in Paris in mid-June. "Until now we have not received any of that."

Sha'th said Ahmad Quray', the Palestinian economy "minister" had failed in a mission to the United States to agree terms with the World Bank, which insists on detailed accounting procedures to show how the money is spent.

"The donors now want to transfer money in dribs and drabs," Sha'th said.

"Abu-'Ammar ('Arafat) was angry about the failure," he added, explaining 'Arafat's outburst earlier in the day at the World Bank.

"All the donors' promises have evaporated and they want to give us only crumbs," 'Arafat charged, saying he had refused bank conditions.

"We are emerging from a military occupation and we do not want to replace it with an economic occupation."

Sha'th said a donors' meeting set for July 11 had now been delayed until autumn.

'Arafat Criticizes 'Slow Action' by Donor Countries

LD0207190694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Mr. President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Authority and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, held a meeting with Arab journalists who asked him about the future.

Mr. president stressed to the journalists that we are now at the stage of building and reconstruction from scratch, as the Israelis have left our territories after totally destroying the infrastructure of the Palestinian economy.

He directed his strong criticism to the donor countries which pledged a lot of assistance towards the reconstruction, yet their pledges remained mere unfulfilled promises. He alluded that a representative from the IMF had informed him that the bank would provide a sum of $10 million out of an approved budget of $42 million.

Mr. president appealed to Arab leaders to resume their financial assistance to contribute to the building of the self-rule areas' economy, which has been exhausted by long years of occupation. He addressed the Arabs and said: I appeal to every Arab conscience and all the Arabs. Where are they now while the Palestinians are building their national authority?

Mr. president added: I am sure the Arabs will not abandon us; alluding to the difficult situation in the self-rule areas and stressing that our Palestinian people, who have long endured hunger, particularly in Gaza, will rise again to build its state.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] concluded saying: Promises are plenty, but the tangible things in hand and on the ground are very little. Gaza is on the edge of famine and the world does not move to help. Food was not dropped by parachutes; is that credible?

'Arafat Meets With Western Envoys, Urges Aid Soon

NC0307065294 Paris AFP in English 0214 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 3 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat called on Western countries late

Saturday [2 July] to speed up financial aid to the new autonomous Palestinian regions and warned that the euphoria over the peace agreement would not last forever.

'Arafat made the appeal during a meeting here with representatives from several Western countries.

"He warned us that the euphoria would not last long and that we must quickly" provide promised financial aid, Jean-Louis Mignot, Belgium's consul general in east Jerusalem, told reporters.

Mignot added that conditions for payment imposed by international donors and criticized by 'Arafat could not be changed.

Earlier Saturday, PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th said donors have given the Palestinian authority just 47.5 million dollars of the promised 720 million dollars because of disagreement over conditions for payment of more money.

Sha'th said Ahmad Quray', the Palestinian economy "minister," had failed in a mission to the United States to agree terms with the World Bank, which insists on detailed accounting procedures to show how the money is spent.

"The donors now want to transfer money in dribs and drabs," Sha'th said.

"Abu-'Ammar ('Arafat) was angry about the failure," he added, explaining 'Arafat's outburst earlier in the day against the World Bank.

"All the donors' promises have evaporated and they want to give us only crumbs," Arafat charged, saying he had refused bank conditions.

"We are emerging from a military occupation and we do not want to replace it with an economic occupation."

The French consul in east Jerusalem, Jean de Gliniasty, said that the PLO chairman spoke at length during the meeting with the Western diplomats on the need for funding in the autonomous regions and "we tried to reassure him."

Furayh Abu-Middayn, the autonomous regions' new justice "minister" who attended the meeting, said the PLO leadership was calling on the international community to abide by its commitments as "the population will not support this situation for long."

'Arafat Complains of Lack of Funds From U.S., Arabs

NC0407135294 Paris AFP in English 1329 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Washington, July 4 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat angrily accused Arab countries and the United States on Monday [4 July] of endangering the peace process by failing to provide Palestinians the funds to make it work.

"Nine months since I was in Washington and nothing concrete in my hand," 'Arafat said of the peace accord he signed here in September with Israel on limited Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

In an interview with CNN, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader said that because of the cash crunch he could not pay the salaries of policemen, doctors, teachers and other Palestinian workers in Gaza and Jericho.

He said that Israel was reaping the dividend of that peace agreement with two billion dollars in aid, sophisticated aircraft purchases, loan guarantees and 185 million dollars to redeploy their forces to settlements in Gaza.

Five million dollars given by the United States to pay Palestinian policemen was used up two months ago, he said.

"They are leaving me alone. What does this mean? Against me only? No, not against me, against the peace process," 'Arafat fumed.

Asked if he was angry, 'Arafat replied testily, "I'm not angry. I am very worried about the peace."

'Arafat also accused Arab countries of taxing its Palestinian citizens between five and seven percent for a fund to administer Palestinian areas, and then withholding those funds.

"Until now, they didn't release this money for us," 'Arafat said. "What does this mean? This means they want a collapse for the peace process."

'Arafat said he told Palestinian workers waiting to be paid that there was a conspiracy against them. He said he could probably contain their anger for a while, but not indefinitely.

"They will listen to me in the first time, in the second time, they will listen to me, in the third time they will listen to me. But in the fourth time...I don't know what will be their reaction," 'Arafat said.

'Arafat said he still believed that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin respected his promises and he would speak frankly with him about his concerns when they meet in Paris this week.

"I'll put on the table all the challenges which are facing, both of us," 'Arafat said, adding that the financial roadblock was "not only against me, (but) against me and him, against the Palestinians and the Israelis."

Despite all the difficulties that Palestinians are now encountering, 'Arafat expressed confidence the peace process would work. "Yes, I'm optimistic. In spite of all our difficulties, I am a strong believer."

'Arafat Meets Hamas Leader's Brother in Gaza

NC0307082394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza, 3 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met last night with Badr Yasin, the brother of Hamas Movement leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who is currently being held In an Israeli jail.

'Arafat asserted at the meeting that the Palestinian National Authority will not bargain over Shaykh Yasin or any Palestinian detainee from whatever faction.

Further on 'Arafat-Yasin Meeting

TA0307162994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] The brother of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin said that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader is incapable of signing a commitment not to employ terrorist measures against the peace agreement. He called on Israel to settle for the signatures of the organization's members on such a commitment as a condition for their release from prison. Badr Yasin met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and asserted that 'Arafat promised him the Hamas leader would be released in the near future. Our Arab affairs correspondent Oren Kohen reports.

[Begin recording] [Kohen] Badr Yasin, brother of Hamas leader Ahmad Yasin, said that Yasir 'Arafat had told him that his brother would be released from an Israeli prison within several weeks. Yasin met with 'Arafat twice during the PLO chairman's visit to Gaza. Badr Yasin asserted that 'Arafat told him that he had spoken several times with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and asked him to release the imprisoned shaykh. However, the Israeli prime minister had still not given any reply on this matter. We asked Badr Yasin why his brother would not sign a commitment not to employ terrorist measures against the peace process.

[Yasin, in Arabic fading into Hebrew translation by Kohen] The shaykh is old and heads a large movement. It is difficult for him to give in and sign. My brother is the leader of a large movement and you cannot expect him to capitulate to you. Israel should be satisfied that the shaykh's followers have signed and free him from prison.

[Kohen] Badr Yasin also complained about his brother's health and said that the last time they met was six months ago in prison. When asked whether his brother supports the peace process in its present form, Badr Yasin had this to say.

[Yasin, in Arabic fading into Hebrew translation by Kohen] I believe that the shaykh supports peace. In the present framework, this is the best solution we could attain and I hope that we will achieve all our rights through peaceful means. [end recording]

'Arafat Meets Israeli Arabs, Urges Prisoners' Release

TA0307120494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat will, apparently, travel to Jericho only on 5 July morning. This was reported by Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian Authority, to our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz.

A short while ago, 'Arafat held a meeting in his Gaza hotel with a representation of some 30 Israeli Arabs, including Knesset Members 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah and Talib al-Sani'. A very hoarse 'Arafat again demanded that Israel free all the Palestinian detainees, including Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, head of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik was with them at the meeting, and he is on the phone now:

[Semrik] We are still in the main conference hall of Hotel Falastin in the center of Gaza. First, we will report on several remarks PLO head 'Arafat made here to the Israeli Arabs. He addressed himself to the demonstrations of the rightists, whom he called the enemies of peace. We, 'Arafat said, with our brains and conscience will have better ideas for the future of our children. 'Arafat further called for the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, and urged Rabin and the Israeli Government to return millions of shekels to the PLO which, he claimed, were taken from the Palestinian laborers working in Israel for the benefit of the Histadrut labor federation. It seems to me that this is a new demand by 'Arafat.

On their part, the Israeli Arabs expressed their full support for the peace process. In very excited speeches, they expressed their support for 'Arafat: We are with you, and we are the answer to the right-wing activists who demonstrated last night and this morning in Jerusalem. They too called for the release of security prisoners, but they also called to free the Israeli Arab security prisoners who resided within the boundaries of the Green Line.

'Arafat Tours Gaza, Forced To Avoid Settler Blockade

TA0307183894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has completed his visit to Gaza Strip provinces and returned to Palestine Hotel. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that today 'Arafat visited Khan Yunus, Rafah, al-Shaja'iyah, and central Strip refugee camps.

Addressing about 10,000 people in Rafah, 'Arafat exhilarated his audience when he spoke of East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. He also reiterated that the Palestinian Authority will not rest until all the Palestinian prisoners are released.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 3 July adds: "After a visit to Dayr al-Balah, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat visited the grave of his father in Khan Yunus. On his way there, he was blocked by Kfar Darom settlers, and his motorcade was forced to take circuitous roads."]

'Arafat Said Fearful of Enraged Jewish Protesters

JN0307192394 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1910 GMT 3 Jul 94

[From the "News At Ten" program]

[Text] And just in, I've just been told that PLO sources have told reporters that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has delayed his visit to Jericho, citing security reasons and saying that he was fearing enraged Jewish protesters, and he wanted to allow more security arrangements. REUTERS news agency quoted one of 'Arafat's advisers, which it did not name, and said that President 'Arafat had become more concerned about security after thousands of right-wing Israelis turned out for anti-'Arafat demonstrations in Jerusalem. And that report was carried by REUTERS. No confirmation from the PLO was yet available.

Preparations for 'Arafat Jericho Visit Detailed

NC0307094994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0912 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Jericho, 3 Jul (MENA)—The MENA correspondent in Gaza and Jericho Basimah Nafadi has sent the following report:

[Nafadi] Preparations have been made in Jericho to receive Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who is scheduled to arrive in the city Monday [4 July] morning by civilian helicopter. He will spend several hours in Jericho before returning to Gaza.

Palestinian sources have reported, however, that 'Arafat might go to Jericho today. Many in the city expect him to have changed his plans at the last moment and might travel to Jericho by land.

The Palestinian National Authority members are due to be sworn in before 'Arafat during his visit to Jericho. Nineteen Authority members have been appointed and five others are expected to be appointed soon. Following the swearing-in ceremony, 'Arafat will chair a meeting, during which the tasks of each National Authority member will be specified.

An atmosphere of enthusiasm prevails in Jericho while the city awaits 'Arafat's arrival. Palestinian flags are flying and welcoming posters have been hung on the municipality building and nearby buildings close to the city square and near the city gate. Municipal workers are setting up the necessary equipment on the municipality building's balcony, where 'Arafat will stand to deliver a speech.

International television networks and news agencies have rented the balconies and roofs of the buildings surrounding the city square where the municipality building is located in order to cover this major event.

Palestinian security sources in Jericho expect thousands of West Bank citizens to come to the city to welcome the Palestinian president.

Palestinian police have adopted the necessary security measures and will not permit cars to enter the downtown area and will ban local vehicles from parking there. Anything blocking the streets and sidewalks will be removed during President 'Arafat's visit in order to leave enough space for the citizens to stand in the area and watch the proceedings.

'Arafat will inaugurate the radio and television establishment in Jericho during his visit.

Further on Preparations for Visit to Jericho

TA0407050894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat will return to the autonomy area in Gaza and Jericho within a week and will establish two commands to run the self-government. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is preparing to safeguard 'Arafat's visit to Jericho tomorrow, and our correspondent Moti Amir reports that two Air Force helicopters will escort 'Arafat on his way from Gaza to Jericho:

[Begin Amir recording] Yasir 'Arafat will return to Gaza within a few days. This is what his aides promised confidants in Khan Yunus and Rafah who asked if he intends to return to Tunis and run the autonomy from there. 'Arafat came in order to remain in his homeland, one of his close aides said, and this is a reality, not a slogan. According to him, 'Arafat has decided to set up two general commands to run the self-government: one in Gaza which will focus on improving the economy, including the creation of employment and the construction of roads and houses; the other will be established in Jericho and, among other things, will handle the negotiations with Israel on the transfer of authority over Judaea and Samaria to the Palestinians according to the phases stipulated by the Declaration of Principles. A Palestinian source emphasized that the Palestinians lag behind on this issue, and it is a pity that it is necessary to remind Israel to abide by its commitments.

At the same time, it seems that the IDF and the Israel Police are preparing to safeguard 'Arafat's visit to Jericho. This operation mainly deals with closing access roads to potential demonstrators, thus preventing them from entering the Jericho area. The IDF will close the Jericho autonomous area today, and prevent Israelis from entering. Palestinian traffic to this area will be via the Alon road to the western entrance to Jericho, near the settlement of Rimonim. It is planned that all guests will park in a parking lot prepared by the IDF and then be driven to the town in volunteers' buses. Incidentally, the Hebron bus company placed its buses, about 50, at the disposal of the guests.

Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Jericho tomorrow aboard one of two Egyptian Army helicopters which will be escorted by two Air Force helicopters. This was decided yesterday by the joint Israeli-Palestinian security committee. The helicopters will land at 0900 [0600 GMT] in the morning near the al-Aqsa camp, the former Israeli Hanan camp, and 'Arafat will be received at the camp by members of the autonomy authority and by the Palestinian army and police commanders. At 1000 [0700] 'Arafat is slated to deliver a speech in Falastin Square in the center of Jericho, and following the speech he will return to the al-Aqsa camp for the swearing-in ceremony of the autonomy authority members and for the first session of this authority under his chairmanship. [end recording]

Senior political sources have told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that in the course of the coming month 'Arafat will come to Gaza and Jericho several times, but will not go to Jerusalem. Israel is interested in 'Arafat living permanently in Gaza and Jericho and running the civilian affairs of the Palestinian Authority.

AFP Describes 'Arafat's Activities in Gaza

NC0307122294 Paris AFP in English 0953 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 3 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on Sunday [3 July] formally opened a Gaza fruit juice factory and walked the streets of Gaza City followed by thousands of Palestinians throwing flowers.

Surrounded by bodyguards, 'Arafat entered the factory amid cheering and embraced Khalid 'Abd-al-Shafi, director of a PLO body charged with collecting funds from foreign donors.

'Arafat was also expected to tour the town and refugee camp of Rafah after receiving more Arab delegations at the seafront Palestine hotel, which has been turned into temporary PLO headquarters for the five-day visit.

It was in the narrow alleys of the camp that 'Arafat's armed guerrillas of the Fatah Hawks held sway during the intifadah or revolt against Israeli rule.

'Arafat arrived in triumph from Egypt on Friday through the border crossing outside the town.

The citrus processing plant, which three weeks ago began experimental production, won a three-year battle for a permit from the Israeli military authorities.

The Italian government provided 10 million dollars for Gaza's first factory to turn abundant citrus into packaged juice.

'Arafat would make a trip Monday to the West Bank town of Jericho, the second self-rule enclave, the aides said. He received rapturous welcome Saturday in Jabaliah refugee camp, the cradle of the intifadah.

The PLO leader was due to leave Gaza on Tuesday or early Wednesday for a meeting in Paris on Thursday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Paris AFP in English at 0958 GMT on 3 July carries a related Gaza-datelined item, which adds the following:

["PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat admitted Sunday he has done too much talking since returning to Gaza as his voice gave out.

["'I'm sorry, I talked too much yesterday,' 'Arafat said as he croaked a few words at the inauguration of a Palestinian citrus processing plant at Shajaiyah, on the eastrn edge of Gaza City.

["'Arafat gave a thunderous speech on Friday shortly after his triumphant homecoming and followed that up with another address on Saturday in the Jabaliah refugee camp.

["In between he has held non-stop meetings with diplomats, PLO officials, Arab notables, journalists and simple admirers until the early hours of the morning."]

Sha'th Details 'Arafat's Schedule for Jericho

NC0307155494 Paris AFP in English 1523 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 3 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat will fly to the autonomous Jericho enclave on Tuesday [5 July] in a helicopter provided by Egypt, his top political advisor Nabil Sha'th said Sunday.

'Arafat arrived in the Gaza Strip on Friday after a 27-year exile, and was originally due to travel to the West Bank town of Jericho on Monday.

Sha'th, the PLO's chief autonomy negotiator, said of the delay: "We are going to have Egyptian helicopters and everything will be ready on Tuesday.

"Besides, our people in Jericho need time to get ready" to receive the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, he added.

In Jericho, 'Arafat will preside over the swearing-in of the new Palestinian self-rule authority, according to a statement from Orient House, the PLO headquarters in East Jerusalem.

Sha'th said 'Arafat would return to Gaza after his visit to Jericho.

Meanwhile the Israeli government welcomed 'Arafat's visit Sunday.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the visit was "very satisfactory and goes beyond all our hopes," one of his colleagues told AFP.

Peres said he was "pleasantly surprised by the moderate proposals" of the PLO chief, who has repeatedly stressed his respect for the Israeli-PLO peace accord during his visit.

Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am told reporters: " 'Arafat's visit is very positive for the continuation of the peace process."

Even Economy Minister Shim'on Shetrit, a Labour Party "hawk," agreed that "the visit gives a positive impression."

'Arafat told the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv that his visit was an "historic event" for peace.

"It is an historic event, not only for me and my people, but also for the peace of the brave which I signed with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin," he said in an interview published Sunday.

On Wednesday 'Arafat is due to meet Peres and Rabin in Paris, where all three will receive a UN peace prize.

Sha'th Says 'Arafat To Return 9 Jul 'for Good'

TA0407105294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will return to the Gaza Strip on Saturday [9 July] to remain there permanently. This was announced by his political adviser, Nabil Sha'th. Our correspondent Moti Gadish reports from Gaza:

[Gadish] Yasir 'Arafat this morning set out to visit the command of the Palestinian security forces and al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza where intifadah casualties are treated. The PLO leader's stay in Gaza has become almost routine, and everybody is looking forward to tomorrow's visit to Jericho. 'Arafat will leave for Jericho by helicopter early tomorrow morning, while his escorts will travel to Jericho in a convoy from the Gaza Strip.

Nabil Sha'th, the PLO leader's political adviser, said that next Saturday 'Arafat will return to Gaza and remain there for good.

[Begin Sha'th recording, in English] He will be back after our trip to Paris. He will be back here for good. I mean this is it. I mean he considers going to Paris now a visit from his base to Paris and back. [end recording]

What about the declarations that 'Arafat will live in Jericho, Nabil Sha'th was asked. Sha'th replied that Gaza is the reality, while Jericho is the symbol, and nobody lives in a symbol but rather among the people, and the people are here in Gaza.

'Arafat Meets With Islamic Jihad, Assails Donor States

JN0407170994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1513 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Report from the "With the Events" feature]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat continued his tours in the Gaza Strip today. Dr. Nabil Sha'th has said that 'Arafat will return to Gaza on Saturday [9 July] to live there permanently. Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid provides further details:

[Begin recording] [Abu-Zayid] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat continued his tours in the Gaza Strip today. He visited the Palestinian Police Headquarters, where he met with police commanders. Then, the PLO chairman toured the government departments complex and inspected the offices of the complex. 'Arafat harshly criticized donor nations, which have failed to honor their pledges by granting the Palestinian authority the necessary funds.

['Arafat] The occupation has destroyed the Palestinian people's infrastructure. The responsibility for this must be borne by the occupation authority, and the entire international community. This is a political, moral, and financial responsibility. We are not begging anybody. These are our rights, which the international community must grant us. [applause]

[Abu-Zayid] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat also met with a delegation of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Gaza Strip today, as reported by Shaykh Talal Najjar, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Gaza Strip.

[Najjar] As a matter of fact, our meeting with 'Arafat was at the behest of brother Fayiz (?al-Ahwal), also known as Abu-'Abdallah, the overall leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement. That is why we have come to the Palestinian authority to meet with brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

[Abu-Zayid] What demands did you voice during this meeting with Abu-'Ammar?

[Najjar] We have not discussed any demands.

[Abu-Zayid] The Islamic Jihad Movement is opposed to the peace agreement.

[Najjar] The Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine-the al-Aqsa Battalions is not opposed to the peace process. As a matter of fact, it is supportive of the peace process. It agrees with the overall policy of the national authority in this regard.

[Abu-Zayid] How do you view 'Arafat's visit to the Gaza Strip? What will be the impact of this visit?

[Najjar] As a matter of fact, the visit by brother leader Abu-'Ammar to the Gaza Strip and Jericho is a consecration of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. Likewise, it is the prelude to the repatriation of all deportees and displaced persons. Moreover, it vindicates the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

[Abu-Zayid] The PLO chairman will conclude his historic three-day visit to Gaza Strip this evening. Later, he will leave for Jericho for a meeting with PNA members. Palestinian sources said that 'Arafat will return to Jericho on Friday, and leave for the Gaza Strip on Saturday. [end recording]

Islamic Jihad Denies Meeting 'Arafat in Gaza

JN0507111194 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] An information spokesman for the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has denied news reports yesterday that a delegation from the movement met with Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza. The spokesman said: While we in the Islamic Jihad Movement emphasize that no meeting was held between the Islamic Jihad Movement and Yasir 'Arafat, we would like to remind our Palestinian people of our declared stands rejecting the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and viewing it as the most serious sellout of our people's rights. We emphasize that it is impossible for us to politically meet with those who concluded this agreement and those who promote it.

Everyone knows that there are a few people who are personally connected to Yasir 'Arafat—who have nothing to do with the Islamic Movement—but to whom 'Arafat seeks to give luster in the name of the Islamic Jihad Movement. The spokesman recalled the old and new game of using imaginary names and fabricated groups to which 'Arafat resorts to exercise pressure, carry out blackmail, and settle accounts with the forces which reject his political course.

The spokesman said: We are confident that our people, who know the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine through its unique jihad action and through its political credibility and principled stands, will never be decieved by these lies and conspiracies. The Islamic Jihad Movement will continue to express the genuine course of jihad and to raise up arms against the occupation. The Islamic Jihad will reject all the political solutions and settlements which relinquish our homeland and cause.

'Arafat Addresses Fatah Cadres in Gaza

NC0407173694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Gaza, 4 Jul (MENA)—A ranking Palestinian official has revealed to MENA the substance of the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and around 400 basic cadres from the Fatah Movement, which belongs to the PLO. Most of them are youths from the Gaza Strip who belong to the organizational frameworks, or the various popular organizBtions, or the Fatah hawks.

Khalid Salam, President 'Arafat's adviser on economic affairs, said in a statement to the MENA correspondent in Gaza and Jericho, Basimah Nafadi, "that the meeting which started at 1100 yesterday evening and went on until 0400 this morning concentrated on two things. The first is to meet Yasir 'Arafat and salute him after having worked with him for many years without having met him. He described the meeting as beneficial, distinguished, familial, enthusiastic, and emotional.

The second objective of the meeting was to get a feel for Fatah's future role in the next stage since it is the PLO's backbone. This makes it necessary to reorganize Fatah so that it becomes compatible with the new role of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA].

The Palestinian president's adviser on economic affairs said in an interview with MENA that 'Arafat presented his viewpoints during the discussion: first, that the Palestinian struggle forces that resisted the occupation for 27 years, particularly within the Fatah cadres, should assume an important role in running the affairs of the new PNA;

Second, that the PNA belongs to all the Palestinian people and that the criterion for those who will administer the offices and activities should favor professional people and technocrats.

Khalid Salam said that although these are initial meetings, the trend so far clearly favors opting for a middle course, which on the one hand does not deprive those who contributed toward national action from playing a direct role in the reconstruction and building process but on the other hand does not eclipse the role of professional and technocratic capabilities, either through comprehensive and extensive rehabilitation processes for large sectors of strugglers, or by placing the struggler in a crucial and important position while at the same time arming him with a group of specialists. Thus, no qualified person or Palestinian struggler is deprived of a role.

Khalid Salam noted that the meeting concentrated on how to draw clear lines between the PNA as the only policy-making power in all the political, economic, and other fields, and the Fatah Movement, and not to allow the overlapping of duties and authorities in view of Fatah's huge impact on the general situation and the power hierarchy itself.

The Palestinian official told MENA that the Fatah fighters had the feeling during this meeting that they had played immense roles during the past 27 years and that these roles, together with the other forces, are what yielded the result of evacuating the occupation from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, as will also happen later with the rest of the West Bank areas.

Khalid Salam said that Fatah has to change its role to participation in realizing the economic and social national program in the Gaza Strip. As for the West Bank, it has to continue its role of struggle until the occupation leaves.

He added that we cannot claim that this overlapping of roles is confusing because it needs a double mechanism in Palestinian political leadership and action, especially since brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is anxious to not hamper the role of Fatah in realizing the national economic and social program. He is also anxious to dedicate the concept and struggle role of the Fatah Movement to confronting the occupation and preparing the occupied territories so that the second transitional stage can be accomplished.

Khalid Salam noted that brother Abu-'Ammar affirmed in a straightforward manner during the meeting that the Fatah Movement primarily, along with the cooperation of the Palestinian national forces, is the basic security the political leadership relies on to realize the agreement until the independent Palestinian state is established with Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian official said that the discussions during the meeting also dealt with poor organization which had negatively affected the Fatah force over the past few years. 'Arafat called for reviving the team spirit within the movement, noting that lack of coordination will affect the movement's line.

'Arafat said that he has decided to hold a series of meetings with all the Fatah cadres to eliminate differences. He said that he had met for two hours with a group of cadres. During the meeting, 'Arafat stressed the need for cooperation between Fatah and all the Palestinian national forces. 'Arafat cautioned that organizational fanaticism will represent a major setback to the Palestinian people because it would obstruct the creation of democracy in the Palestinian society.

In his statement to the MENA correspondent in Gaza, Khalid Salam said that President 'Arafat called on the conferees to enable the independent parties to have a dialogue with the primary Palestinian organizations such as Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the People's Party. [passage omitted]

Gaza Hamas Leader Rejects 'Arafat's Call for Unity

TA0407070094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Report on a talk with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) leaders in the Gaza Strip, by Moti Gadish, in Dr. al-Zahhar's clinic in the center of Gaza; date not given—recorded; al-Zahhar's remarks in English, followed by Gadish's translation into Hebrew]

[Text] [Gadish] Mahmud al-Zahhar is happy about Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Gaza. At the same time, he expects the return from exile of another three million Palestinians who are no less important to him than the PLO leader. In his clinic at the center of the Gaza City Dr. al-Zahhar said that his movement, Hamas, rejects 'Arafat's call for unity among the Palestinian people. According to al-Zahhar, 'Arafat is not interested in unity but in additional support for his moves.

[Al-Zahhar] He is not looking for unity. He is looking for more support for his ideas and his steps. This is not unity. If he is looking for unity, he should, from the start, sit down with Hamas and the other Palestinian factions, put together a common program, and through it he should negotiate.

[Gadish] 'Arafat's call for unity, al-Zahhar emphasized, is in fact, an attempt to suppress the voice of his opponents. Still, according to Dr. al-Zahhar who is one of Hamas leaders in the Strip, 'Arafat's visit to Gaza has not damaged Hamas supporters' loyalty to their movement and ideology. Everybody who is a believing, religious person understands this is not a peace accord.

[Al-Zahhar] We are looking for independence. We are looking for genuine peace in this area, but this is not a genuine peace. This is a security treaty for the benefit of Israel. So, if he is going here to have more hands to protect the settlement, this will not be accepted.

[Gadish] Nothing justifies acceptance of 'Arafat's call for unity, Dr. al-Zahhar said, not even the release of Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin from jail.

[Al-Zahhar] Do you think the life of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin or the life of this generation equal the price of Jerusalem in the Islam? No, of course no. So, to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, and the price will be the permanent occupation of Jerusalem, is not accepted.

Gazan Detained for Throwing 'Object' at 'Arafat's Car

TA0407114094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] A Gaza resident was detained at noon by the Palestinian police on suspicion of having thrown an object, possibly a grenade, at PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's car. The incident took place when 'Arafat's car left the command of the Palestinian security forces which is located in the former Gaza jail. The PLO leader's car was not damaged. This was reported by our correspondent in Gaza Moti Gadish.

Man With Pistol Arrested Outside 'Arafat Meeting

NC0407121294 Paris AFP in English 1152 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 4 (AFP)—A Palestinian armed with a pistol was arrested Monday [4 July] outside the new Palestinian police headquarters where PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat was meeting with security officials, an AFP correspondent said.

The young man, who was in a car, refused to stop at a police checkpoint in front of the Gaza Strip's central prison serving as police headquarters and the police chased him, the correspondent who witnessed the event said.

They arrested him and took his pistol, which he had tucked into his belt.

'Arafat had arrived at the prison with an escort of three police cars before holding a three-hour meeting with Palestinian police and security chiefs there.

The arrest took place several minutes before the PLO chief left the prison to visit the former palace of the Egyptian governor of Gaza, later used by Israeli authorities.

Workmen were in the process of restoring the villa, where 'Arafat is to stay when he returns to the Gaza Strip for good at the end of the week following a trip to Paris.

'Arafat Said To Put Away Trademark Pistol

NC0407143394 Paris AFP in English 1236 GMT 4 Jul 94

[By Sakher Abu Eloun]

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 4 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stopped wearing his holster gun, a trademark over a life-time of Palestinian struggle, in the four days since he arrived in Gaza, journalists have noted.

"He doesn't need a pistol," Gaza City police commander Sa'ib 'Ajiz told AFP on Monday [4 July].

"This is a time of reconstruction there's no need for guns. We want to build our economy now and that's the main issue for our president.

"Abu-'Ammar ('Arafat) feels secure here, he goes out to shake hands," 'Ajiz said.

However when he arrived at the Rafah border from Egypt last Friday, the pistol was on his belt, as much a symbol of his life-long fight as the black and white checked scarf or kufiyah.

"There are no holes in our security. He's now president of a state with his people around him and they protect him."

'Ajiz all but admitted the gun was a symbol.

"It's only for his personal defence and whether he carries it or not it doesn't matter now," he said.

AFP journalists saw the gun had been left behind on Saturday when 'Arafat toured Jabaliya refugee camp where the Palestinian revolt began in 1987.

Again on Sunday the 64-year-old leader ventured out unarmed, driving through Gaza City and down to Rafah refugee camp and town.

On Monday, 'Arafat went to Gaza central jail to meet his police chiefs and one more discarded the leather holster.

It was also noted that Monday's convoy for the PLO leader was made up of just three Mercedes led by a single police jeep.

Earlier tours have been marked by a huge motorcade of around 20 vehicles with sirens wailing.

Furayh Abu-Middayn, justice "minister" in the new Palestinian authority said: "Abu-'Ammar told our police chiefs he felt safe amongst his people, he relies on them.

"Everywhere he goes it gives him more confidence." He is however still wearing his olive green military uniform.

"And the police take care of all aspects of security now," Abu-Middayn admitted.

"But who knows may be tomorrow he will carry his pistol again."

'Arafat attracted notoriety when he took his gun to the UN General Assembly meeting in New York in 1974.

"I have come bearing an olive branch in one hand and a freedom fighter's gun in the other. Don't let the olive branch fall from my hand."

'Arafat Confirms Return to Gaza After Stop in Tunis

TA0407180894 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Report by 'Anat Saragosti]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is still in Gaza city. In an interview with Channel 2 news today, 'Arafat said he will return to live in Gaza city immediately after his trip to Paris and a brief farewell visit to Tunis. 'Arafat will ask Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to permit Gaza Strip residents to leave for work in Israel and to let West Bank residents visit Jerusalem. He will also demand an acceleration of the next stage in the transfer of authorities to the Palestinians. Our correspondent 'Anat Saragosti spoke with 'Arafat:

[Begin recording] [Saragosti] A small number of correspondents who waited until the conclusion of 'Arafat's working day were given an interview at 0300 today. We were there and asked 'Arafat about the early empowerment.

['Arafat, in English] Now, after approximately two months, they are still hesitating to implement quickly and as had been agreed upon.

[Saragosti] 'Arafat is devoting most of his time to meeting local residents. He has no time to discuss the situation, but he is aware of the difficulties and of the delay in the transfer of funds from the donor countries.

['Arafat, in English] They have to understand that Gaza has arrived to the red line of starvation. We are human beings and not animals.

[Saragosti] Between meetings, speeches, and embraces, 'Arafat receives updates and prepares the issues he will discuss with Rabin. The closure, for example:

['Arafat, in English] The continuous isolation to Gaza Strip has to stop. The isolation to Jerusalem has to stop.

[Saragosti] We asked 'Arafat when he intends to return to the Gaza Strip after his trip to Paris:

['Arafat, in English] Directly. After returning from Paris, I will go for one day for making farewell to His Excellency President Ben Ali in Tunisia and to thank them for what they had suffered during our presence. We cannot forget their warm hospitality; we cannot forget it.

[Saragosti] This morning, 'Arafat visited the supreme command. He was given a full military reception with a local slant: A short time after his departure, rumors spread about an assassination attempt and a chase. The Palestinian police suspected that something was amiss and acted promptly and efficiently. 'Arafat was already on his way to the next meeting. He is constantly on the go. We asked him whether he had watched any of the World Cup soccer matches.

['Arafat, in English] Sorry, I have not. I have not any time. I would like, but you do not know how busy I am. I am working day by night. [end recording]

Police Chief Reports 'Arafat Tours Gaza in 'Secret'

NC0407195994 Paris AFP in English 1938 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 4 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat slipped out of his hotel in Gaza on Monday [4 July] for a swift but secret tour of the Gaza Strip, Palestinian police chief on the Strip Sa'ib al-'Ajiz said.

Al-'Ajiz told AFP: "Mr. 'Arafat toured sites which he had not yet visited on the Gaza Strip," but refused to give details.

Earlier Palestinian spokesman Hasan 'Asfur said 'Arafat had left the hotel in his convoy "perhaps" en route for the West Bank town of Jericho.

But late Monday the PLO chairman was seen with his advisor Nabil Sha'th and spokesman Marwan Kanafani admiring the sunset from the balcony of his room in the Palestine Hotel.

Since his arrival on Friday on the Strip after a 27 year exile, 'Arafat has been particularly impressed by the view of the sea from his hotel.

"He keeps on asking us 'Does it belong to us this sea,'" Sha'th told AFP.

The PLO chairman is scheduled to fly in to Jericho on Tuesday morning on board an Egyptian helicopter from Gaza where he was given a tumultuous welcome on his historic return.

Jewish settlers have said they would fly kites and release balloons into the skies to prevent 'Arafat's helicopter from landing.

'Arafat Returns to Hotel After 'Tour'

JN0407195794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has returned to his Gaza hotel, which he left this afternoon for an unknown location. 'Arafat was seen at the hotel balcony flanked by his political adviser Nabil Sha'th and his spokesman Marwan Kanafani.

Brigadier General Sa'ib al-'Ajiz, the National Security Services chief in Gaza, had told AFP that 'Arafat took a tour, but would not name the place.

A Palestinian official had also suggested that 'Arafat might have proceeded to Jericho, which he is scheduled to visit tomorrow, Tuesday.

'Arafat Said To Leave Gaza for Jericho

NC0407160894 Paris AFP in English 1548 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 4 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat slipped out of his hotel in Gaza on Monday [4 July] possibly on his way to Jericho, a PLO official said.

Hasan 'Asfur said Arafat's convoy had left his temporary headquarters in the seafront Palestine Hotel shortly after journalists were asked to go away and return later.

'Asfur told AFP the unpredictable 'Arafat was "perhaps" on his way to Jericho where he is not expected until Tuesday morning.

The PLO chairman is scheduled to fly into Gaza on board an Egyptian helicopter from Gaza on Tuesday morning where he was given a tumultuous welcome on his historic return Friday after a 27-year exile.

Jewish settlers had said they would fly kites and release balloons into the skies to prevent 'Arafat's helicopter from landing in Jericho Tuesday.

'Arafat is known for keeping his schedules a closely-guarded secret mainly out of security fears.

Even the announcement last week of his landmark trip to Gaza took Israeli officials by surprise as they had only just received the request from the PLO.

Israel Police Reportedly Escort 'Arafat Entourage

TA0407170694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Members of Yasir 'Arafat's entourage have left Gaza city on their way to Jericho. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan has learned that they are driving through Israel in several convoys escorted by Israeli police vehicles. Yasir 'Arafat will fly to Jericho tomorrow in an

Egyptian helicopter and is expected to arrive in the town at around 0900 [0600 GMT].

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Palestinian security forces in Jericho are preparing for the visit, during which 'Arafat will make a speech to the residents of the West Bank. Prior to the visit, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources clarified that the security forces will not permit any blocking of roads or disruptions of traffic in the territories.

Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Aviv Bushinsky report that the police are investigating who spilled oil and spread nails on the Jerusalem-Jericho road in the course of last weekend's demonstration.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has decided to take several steps to disrupt tomorrow's visit. Gil Litman, our correspondent on settlement affairs, reports that after a lengthy meeting, the settler leadership decided to block roads in Judaea and Samaria in order to stop Palestinians from driving to Jericho. They have also prepared a leaflet in Arabic, which they intend to distribute to Arab drivers, explaining their actions.

Settlers Plan To Disrupt 'Arafat's Jericho Visit

TA0407184694 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Report by correspondent Rina Matzliah]

[Excerpt] The preparations for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Jericho are now at a peak. At the same time, however, preparations for the protest activities designed to disrupt the visit are also being completed. Under the banner "We will not let them celebrate," the settlers intend to block major traffic axes throughout Judaea and Samaria.

The settlers, who will block the roads between 0400 and 0700 tomorrow morning, intend to prevent the Arab populace from participating in the festivities in Jericho. The settlers will be equipped with truncheons in case of any violent altercations with the Arab residents.

The operation order, which was distributed today, instructs the demonstrators to avoid any confrontations with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers; however, they are urged to do everything, including prostrating themselves on the road to prevent their dispersal. The operation order also instructs them to bring their personal weapons and cameras to document their evacuation. The leaflet disseminated among the settlers today also advises them to bring attorneys to the demonstrations, as they could prove to be of assistance, and to organize ambulances and medics. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Arrives in Jericho; Settlers Block Roads

TA0507064394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Jericho a few minutes ago in an Egyptian helicopter accompanied by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] helicopters. His flight path took him over Bet El and Shilo north of Jerusalem. Our correspondents Arye Gus and Moti Amir report from Jericho that several thousand inhabitants received 'Arafat, and the flow of West Bank inhabitants into Jericho is continuing, but the overall size of the crowd is relatively small. Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the civilian committee, protested that settlers' roadblocks have prevented many people from reaching Jericho.

Faysal al-Husayni and Natoray Qarta's Rabbi Moshe Hirsch and several ultra-Orthodox Jews arrived in Jericho a short time ago. Hirsch said he came to participate in the Palestinians' joy. Our correspondent reports from the Tapuah junction that traffic from Nabulus, Janin, and Ramallah in the direction of Jericho is generally moving undisturbed. There are incessant clashes between Mitzpe Yeriho settlers and security forces along the Jerusalem- Jericho, but Arab vehicles nevertheless manage to get through. Nine of the demonstrators have been detained.

'Arafat Addresses Cheering Jericho Masses

JN0507102394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0640 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Jericho on 5 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We will, without doubt, help our messengers and those who believe, both in this world's life and the day when when the witnesses will stand forth. [Koranic verse] Palestine, Palestine ['Arafat tells crowd to chant for Palestine not his person].

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. My kinfolk, all my kinfolk; my people, all my people; beloved people of Palestine; my brethren; my beloved: At the beginning of this speech and from the bottom of our hearts we tell the most noble among us, the righteous martyrs, our righteous martyrs, headed by the prince of all martyrs Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], that a pledge is a pledge and that an oath is an oath. [applause] Yes, my brothers, we tell our righteous martyrs, the most noble among us, that a pledge is a pledge and an oath is an oath. And we say it to our prisoners, the male and female prisoners: Patience, patience, and God will help. [applause] Palestine, Palestine, we sacrifice our blood and lives for you, Palestine. ['Arafat again asks people to chant for Palestine not him] Yes, my brethren, my beloved ones, on this day we remembers these heroes incarcerated in the occupation [authorities] prisons. Leave them alone, police. ['Arafat asks the police to leave the crowd alone]

My brethren, my beloved; my brethren, my beloved; my brethren, my beloved, our lives and blood we sacrifice for you, Palestine. My brethren, my beloved ... ['Arafat, interrupted by the enthusiasm of the crowd, stops speaking and someone asks the masses to stop pushing toward the podium so that 'Arafat can finish his speech; 'Arafat then asks the crowd to chant in the name of Palestine instead of his name]. My brothers, my beloved, I would like to remind you of something my brother and my colleague Dr. Sa'ib ['Urayqat] has just said. What did Dr. Sa'ib say? Listen to me. What did Dr. Sa'ib say? My brothers, in 1897, they said a land with no people for a people with no homeland. This means they had denied the existence of the Palestinian people 100 years ago. In 1907, Europe accepted this. In 1917, the Balfour Declaration was issued. In 1947, the partition resolution was issued. [a moderator asks the crowd to stay away from the platform, stop the chaos, and sit on the ground in honor of 'Arafat]

My brothers, allow me to speak. I said in 1947, the partition resolution was issued. In 1967, all of Palestine was occupied. Let us keep these things in mind. The decision was to erase the Palestinian people from the map. Now, brethren, I can tell you that the plot is continuing in order to erase the Palestinian people. But I tell them that no one can erase the Palestinian people or humiliate the Palestinian people. [applause] Yes, no one can erase or humiliate the Palestinian people. Yes, yes, no one can erase or humiliate the Palestinian people. [applause] The children of the stones proved to the world that this people cannot be subjugated, cannot be subjugated, cannot be subjugated. [applause] Yes, they proved that this people cannot be subjugated.

I would like to tell you all that when we decided to make the peace of the brave, we committed ourselves to it. But at the same time I demand the other party to make the same commitment. Commitment is not from one side only. [applause] Yes, commitment to peace is not from one side. The other side should also commit itself to peace as we are committed to peace. What happened today, that is, the closure of streets and regions was a violation of this commitment. They want to prevent our people from arriving here. Why? Why are they preventing our people? This is our land. How can they prevent our people [words indistinct]? [applause] They must understand that this land is Palestinian land and they cannot prevent any Palestinian from moving on it, whoever he may be. They must understand that this Palestinian will is continuous will, an eternal will for the Palestinian people. In this land are a people of exceeding strength. [Koranic verse] [applause] I would like to tell them a simple thing: O mountain, you cannot be shaken by the wind; O mountain, you cannot be shaken by the wind; O mountain, you cannot be shaken by the wind. [said three times as heard] Yes, O mountain, you cannot be shaken by the wind, cannot be shaken by wind. I am saying this and I remember our martyrs, prisoners, the female prisoners, and our injured heroes, who conferred medals of honor on the Palestinian people. Also I must say to my released brothers, the released heroes: Be patient, be patient, and God will help. [applause] I am aware of the amount of the suffering of the released prisoners, but I promise to do everything to lift this suffering from them all. Therefore, I tell them: Welcome, welcome, welcome. [applause]

My brothers, there was an attempt to bargain over prisoners and detainees so that some would be released and others stay in prison. But I tell them in front of you that I can never bargain over my imprisoned brother Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. [applause] Yes, brothers, they tried to make us bargain over prisoners, but I told them that the prisoners issue is an indivisible part, an indivisible part, and the first one who must be released is my brother, the beloved Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. [applause] Yes, my brothers, yes my beloved, we must know that there are attempts to split our ranks. They think that the ranks of the Palestinian people can be split. Therefore, beloved ones, I tell you: Unity, unity, unity, unity, unity, unity, unity. [applause] Yes, unity, unity, unity, unity. [applause] Unity, unity, unity, unity. [the crowd chants after him: unity, unity, unity, unity; national unity, national unity] Yes, brethren, we are one bloc and one people. [Announcer says woman approaches 'Arafat and kisses him] Accordingly, brethren, we agreed on national unity for all factions of the Palestinian revolution, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], [Islamic] Jihad, the Arab [Liberation Front], the [Popular] Struggle [Front], FIDA [Palestinian Democrtatic Federation], the [People's] Party, the PLF [Palestine Liberation Front], the Popular [Front for the Liberation of Palestine], the Democratic [Front for the Liberation of Palestine]. O brothers, all ... ['Arafat stops speaking as people try to carry the elderly woman who kissed him out of the crowd after fainting] Yes, national unity is the basis of our work, brethren. Truly Allah loves those who fight in His Cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure. [Koranic verse]

I go back to saying yes. Another point, as I am here in Jericho, I am here in the oldest city in the world, I tell you let us embark on an agricultural revolution in Jericho, an agricultural revolution in Jericho to be the foundation for the establishment of our independent state. Brothers, I would like to tell you that this struggle and this intensive effort will continue until we establish our independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, God willing. [applause] God willing, God willing, we will all pray in Jerusalem, we will all pray in Jerusalem. I would like to say, brothers, glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth for all those pleasing him. [Biblical verse] Truly Allah loves those who fight in his cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure. And we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith and make them heirs, to establish a firm place for them in the land. [Koranic verses] Together, brothers, until we pray in Jerusalem, until we pray in Jerusalem, until we pray in Jerusalem, until we pray in Jerusalem. [applause]

Authority Members Sworn In Before 'Arafat in Jericho

JN0507105094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Twelve Palestinian Authority members were sworn in before PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Jericho this morning.

Our correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi reports that the following were sworn in: Intisar al-Wazir, Ilyas Frayj, Riyad al-Za'nun, Zakariya al-Agha, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, Furayh Abu-Middayn, Nabil Sha'th, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, and Yasir 'Amr. As for the other members, they were unable to make it to the territories and will be sworn in later.

After this, 'Arafat chaired a session of the Palestinian Authority. He will also meet with the commanders of the Palestinian police force at the police headquarters in Jericho, after which he will return to Gaza.

Damascus Reports PPSF's Criticism of 'Arafat Visit

JN0207134494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has said PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Gaza, which took place under the canopy of the Zionist occupation, is an insult to the Palestinian people's history, struggle, and the great sacrifices they made to regain their national and historical rights.

In a statement issued today, the PPSF said the visit comes within the framework of the submissive Oslo and Cairo agreements and in implementation of the commitments signed by the PLO leadership. The visit, the PPSF says, will be the beginning of the implementation of the concessions the PLO made to the Zionist occupation.

The statement added: We view with strong denunciation the point reached by the PLO leadership, which has made itself hostage and the Palestinian people hostage to the Zionist occupation, turned its back, and relinquished our people's right to repatriation and self-determination.

PFLP-GC Assails 'Arafat's 'Sadatist' Visit

JN0207135194 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source" at the PFLP-GC; date not given]

[Text] 1. This Sadatist visit is an attempt to overshadow the Oslo agreement, which legitimizes the continued Zionist occupation of all of Palestine. We say Sadatist because this visit has been coordinated with the Egyptian regime, thus confirming the same course that began at Camp David.

2. 'Arafat's visit to Gaza and his expected visit to Jericho have been permitted by the Zionist occupation. This permission indicates that all that is called the Palestinian authority or the administrative self-rule is a U.S.-Zionist arrangement which turns 'Arafat and his authority into an extension of Rabin's rule and the occupation of Palestine.

3. Having attempted to draw the masses' sympathy by addressing the detainees issue, 'Arafat cannot dismiss the fact that the keys of the prison will be transferred from one hand to another, which is the hand of 'Arafat and his authority.

4. The most dangerous aspect of 'Arafat's visit to Gaza and Jericho is that it is a major act of deception aimed at our masses in the homeland and in the diaspora. Over 4 million Palestinian refugees are still in exile, denied their right to repatriation and self-determination. Meanwhile, Jerusalem will remain under captivity.

5. The intifadah masses and heroes, having been forgotten by 'Arafat, were only mentioned after 'Arafat heard whispers from those standing beside him. Those masses and heroes are the first to be threatened by 'Arafat. This is so because through this visit, 'Arafat has turned into a new Antoine Lahd in a new security zone belonging to the Zionist entity to strike at the intifadah and its activists.

6. The masses of our Palestinian people everywhere, having offered martyrs and sacrifices, will not be deceived by this staged celebration and will continue to adhere to their right to their homeland. They will maintain the intifadah and the revolution until our people's aspirations in their homeland, Palestine, are achieved.

It is a revolution until the land and man are liberated.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command

Dissident Fatah Denounces 'Arafat Gaza Visit

JN0207193694 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] The official spokesman for the [dissident] Fatah Central Committee has issued a statement saying that 'Arafat's Gaza visit was coordinated with the Zionist enemy. It is being made under the protection of and to suit the terms and dictates of the Zionist enemy. Once more, the visit shows just how ready 'Arafat is—in his place in the hostile camp—to make further concessions and to meet all demands at the expense of our people's struggle and their aspirations for liberation and repatriation.

The visit, went on the statement, underscores the role assigned to 'Arafat and his team, namely to enable the Zionist enemy to fulfill its aggressive function in the region, by turning this dependent self-administration into a bridge for controlling our Arab nation's resources and targeting the underpinnings of its unity and development.

Fatah's Central Committee's official spokesman said this theatrical visit by 'Arafat and his team—taking place under the protection of Zionist spears—detracts from our people's national dignity and betrays the struggle of our nation's dynamic forces and Palestinian people, from whose ranks tens of thousands have been martyred, wounded, or detained.

We in Fatah declare our denunciation of this move, whose goals and implications are clear. We emphasize that we have considerable faith in our people and our Islamic and Arab nation's masses, who will pursue the struggle to abort the Oslo agreement and all its follow-ups. Our people understand the reality and significance of what 'Arafat signed in Cairo just as they understand the untruths spread by this treasonous group. Our people will not cede a single grain of their national soil or their national and pan-Arab duty to challenge the plots hatched by the hostile camp against their aspirations or those of the Arab nation.

First Palestinian Radio Beams Test Programs

NC0207180494 Paris AFP in English 1648 GMT 2 Jul 94

[By Nejla Sammakia]

[Text] Jericho, West Bank, July 2 (AFP)—Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation radio went on the air for the first time Saturday [2 July] beaming test programs of classical Arab music out of a studio in the self-rule enclave of Jericho.

"Brothers and sisters all over Palestinian land, this is the Voice of Palestine," the speaker announced as broadcasting began mid-afternoon on medium wave at a frequency of 702 kilohertz.

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the corporation, said he was trying to link up with PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza for a radio message, a day after his historic return to a tumultuous welcome.

A repeat of 'Arafat's 30-minute speech made Friday was also planned.

"We are one of the elements necessary for the building of a state," Abu-'Ayyash said.

"Our timing was important, to coincide with the dream of return and the start of a new era."

Half an hour before closing down, the radio broadcast a live message from 'Arafat's top political advisor Nabil Sha'th in Gaza.

"I greet all the Palestinian people," said Sha'th who is "minister" of international cooperation in the new Palestinian authority.

"The fighter is freed today, the Palestinian vision is confirmed today, the first steps toward a Palestinian state began today," Sha'th said.

The radio and television station operates out of a rented residential building in fields outlying central Jericho which it moved to after temporarily using a downtown hotel.

Engineers worked around the clock since Friday to finish the studios and technician rooms on time for an expected visit here by 'Arafat on Monday.

"We hope to invite 'Arafat to the studios," Abu-'Ayyash said.

Transmission reaches Jerusalem, all of the West Bank and Gaza, according to engineer Bassam Daghlis.

It is linked to a central station in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah controlled by Israel, which has had to approve the radio wave length and operational hours under the accord launching autonomy on May 4.

Palestinian television so far irregularly beams test images of its logo.

Abu-'Ayyash said he expected the radio and television to function fully after moving to main studios in a building in Ramallah which was a radio station under Jordanian rule before Israeli occupation in 1967.

Israel has refused the PBC access to the Ramallah station on the grounds it should stay within the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho.

"We expect that after the second phase of negotiations...a solution will be possible," Abu-'Ayyash said.

Until then, the radio will operate on a test basis for a few hours a day.

Israel and the Palestinian authority are to start talks soon on widening Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the West Bank. Preparatory talks started Tuesday at Erez outside Gaza.

Al-Quds Protests 'Arafat's 'Appropriating' Frequency

JN0207184794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jul 94

["Important" statement by al-Quds Radio staff on 2 July]

[Text] 'Arafat's visit to Gaza is self-explanatory. The first measure 'Arafat made was to preempt the freedom of expression and suppress liberties. This afternoon on 2 July, 1994, at about 4 o'clock, the 'Arafat authority's radio station began transmitting on the same bands as al-Quds Radio—the Palestinian Arab radio on the road of the liberation of the land and individual—most importantly on our main frequency of 702 kHz.

Al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab Radio, has been and remains the radio of the Palestinian people and the intifadah. Al-Quds Radio was born and began transmitting with the outbreak of the glorious intifadah. Al-Quds Radio has been and remains the radio of the deportees and detainees and the wounded. It has been and continues to be the radio of the heroic martyrs and the Palestinian people wherever they are. Hence, the Zionist enemy's antipathy toward the radio and its jamming of our broadcasts and the threat to take further measures against us.

Al-Quds Radio has represented and continues to represent national Palestinian unity. It is the voice of all Palestinians whose frequencies have carried their various shades of opinion and persuasions. Hence, the war waged on our radio by the Zionist enemy and Rabin's effort to keep its voice from reaching our people under occupation.

Al-Quds Radio—the first casualty of the first hours of 'Arafat's Gaza visit—is calling the attention of the Palestinian and Arab and world opinion to the gravity of 'Arafat's measure appropriating the main frequency of al-Quds Radio. The serious measure is a harbinger of the repression of liberties and confiscation of the right to free opinion and expression.

Al-Quds Radio staff urges all freedom lovers and all those who believe in and advocate the right to the freedom of expression, and who champion the causes of democracy, to speak out against the measure taken against al-Quds Radio—the radio of the intifadah and the self-denying people.

God is on our side; victory is at hand; and together we remain on the road of the liberation of the land and the individual.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on 'Arafat's Return to Gaza

NC0407103594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] London, 4 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has emphasized the importance of Jerusalem to all Muslims worldwide, not just the Palestinian people.

In an interview with British television [not further identified] marking 'Arafat's return to the liberated territories, President Mubarak calls on Israel not to make any statements on Jerusalem before negotiating its status and to stop its periodic remarks about the issue. He described the problem as sensitive and complex.

He warned that making statements on Jerusalem before negotiations are held will create numerous problems between the world's Muslims and Israel. He said a final solution on Jerusalem should come when the parties concerned sit at the negotiating table when "definitely they will find a way to that solution."

Responding to a question about Yitzhaq Rabin's statement on the establishment of a Palestinian entity, not a Palestinian state, President Mubarak said: "That is what he says now, but the problem is in the process of being resolved." Mubarak noted that there will be a Palestinian state in the future.

Speaking about the increasing number of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, he said: Quite frankly there were 48 small settlements when the Camp David Accord was signed and now there are 180 large settlements. This is the biggest problem that will face negotiations in the future.

President Mubarak said he couldn't predict a solution and that the Palestinians and Israelis must resolve their problems realistically, depending on genuine current stands.

Mubarak affirmed that the situation in the coming phase will change completely and that President 'Arafat will live amid his people on his land, not as he used to before. He noted that 'Arafat will face and deal with big problems together with his aides so they can come up with the best decisions for bringing prosperity to the Palestinian people.

Discusses Jerusalem, Settlements

NC0407154294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stressed the importance of Jerusalem for all the world's Muslims and not only for the Palestinian people. In an interview with British television on the occasion of 'Arafat's return to the liberated territories, President Mubarak called on Israel not to issue any statements or give interviews on Jerusalem before holding negotiations on this issue.

President Mubarak described the issue as sensitive and complicated. He said that the final solution of Jerusalem must be worked out when all the parties concerned sit at the negotiating table. He pointed out that there were 48 small Israeli settlements in the occupied territories when the Camp David Accord was signed. However, this number has increased to 180 large settlements now, President Mubarak added. He said that the issue of settlements is the biggest problem facing the negotiations during the next stage.

In his interview, President Mubarak affirmed that the situation and conditions will change completely during the next stage and that President 'Arafat will live with his people on his land, and not as was the case before. However, he noted that 'Arafat will face major problems but these will be discussed with his aides in order to make the best decisions that would establish prosperity and progress for the Palestinian people.

Musa Urges End to 'Regrettable' Fighting in Yemen

NC0307095594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that the continued fighting in Yemen is regrettable and that no Arab can accept this continuing fierce and cruel fighting between the sons of the same people.

He said that Egypt still believes that unity cannot be protected by the use of force, as is being attempted now. He added: We call on the brothers in north and south Yemen to stop the fighting and start the dialogue so as to overcome this grave and regrettable crisis that is preoccupying the whole Arab world.

Commenting on the continued battles in Yemen, Musa said in a statement today: The continued fighting disregards the UN Security Council resolutions and the Arab appeals. The brothers in Yemen should not turn a blind eye to the resolutions of the Security Council and the Arabs calling on them to stop such actions, which promise nothing good for Yemen or the Arabs.

Envoy Returns From Yemen, Comments

NC0407115894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Ambassador Badr Hammam, assistant foreign minister and President Husni Mubarak's envoy to Yemen, returned to Cairo from Sanaa before noon today after a five-day visit during which he conveyed a message from President Mubarak to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He also held talks with Yemeni officials on ways to stem the bloodshed and end the inflamed situation there.

In an arrival statement, he said he is bringing a written reply message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to President Mubarak.

He added that his mission to Yemen came in the context of Egypt's pioneering role and responsibility, which the brothers in Yemen appreciate because Egypt is the oldest sister seeking eagerly and sincerely to do whatever is good for the whole Arab nation.

He said his talks with the Yemeni officials dealt with ways to reach and consolidate a cease-fire and resume a quiet, political dialogue among all Yemeni parties to preserve unity, the Yemeni people's interests, and the lives of their sons and restore normal life so that Yemen can resume the construction process.

He emphasized that UN Security Council Resolutions 924 and 921 on Yemen, a cease-fire, and initiating a dialogue will resolve all problems resulting from the volatile situation that has harmed the Yemeni people in Aden and other areas.

Asked whether he had discussed with Yemeni officials the problems of Egyptians who are still in Yemen, Hammam said he met with several Yemeni officials, especially from the Yemeni Education Ministry, and with a large number of Egyptians and discussed with them ways to obtain their full dues.

He noted that the Yemeni government is sparing no effort to pay all Egyptians what they have coming and that administrative and financial measures are now under way to enable the Egyptians to quickly obtain all they are due.

Hammam said the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is now cooperating with the Transport Ministry to provide ships to bring the Egyptians back from Yemen in coordination with the Yemeni Embassy in Cairo and Yemeni Education Ministry. He added that there are no obstacles to this process, but it will take time to provide the ships and for them to sail home from Yemeni ports.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Addresses Nation on Revolution Anniversary

EA0107200094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has confirmed that the march of the revolution will continue for the building of the modern state in Sudan. He said this when he addressed the Sudanese nation yesterday evening from the Friendship Hall in Khartoum, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir reviewed the achievements realized in the revolutionary era in all fields and said: We are looking to the future with hope, confidence, and optimism. He stressed that Sudan today was stronger than at any time in the past. He pointed out that the revolution had succeeded in achieving the spread of security, and in introducing comprehensive social change, and had also succeeded in promoting the economy—to the extent that the rate of economic growth in Sudan is now one of the highest in the Third World.

The president of the Republic stressed that Sudan was no longer an unknown quantity or neglected entity in international politics. He said that the doors of Sudan would remain open to all. He emphasized that we are not advocates of strife or terror, and added that Sudan today was also witnessing a new awakening and a great transformation, which could not be denied by anyone. He said that many states were now eager to develop relations with Sudan, particularly African and Asian states.

The president of the Republic said that the revolution had become aware of the sincerity of the people and their loyalty to the pledge they made with the National Salvation Revolution. He commended the response from all public sectors to the revolution's programs. He touched on the self-reliance policy pursued by the revolution, confirming that they had achieved great and appreciable successes despite their suffering.

He pointed out that economic reform could not be achieved without suffering in the face of the withdrawal of international financing and external assistance. He said that the policy of liberating the economy enabled the country to expand agriculture, a matter which had been witnessed during the revolutionary years in addition to the development of livestock wealth. The president also dealt with the efforts of the revolution to lower living costs in spite of those circumstances. He confirmed that the state would continue in this direction.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir referred to the federal system of government, stressing that this was a new and original vision for restructuring Sudanese politics. The leader of the revolution pointed out that the political system was the entry point and the guarantee for the participation of the people of Sudan in making and implementing policies. He said that the establishment of the people's authority had begun with all confidence.

President al-Bashir announced that the march of Sudan in responding to god's law would continue, while the revolution's scheme to arouse the energies of the Sudanese people would also continue, until Sudan rose to a higher level with the work of its people.

As for the revolution's efforts toward the achievement of peace, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir said that we were moving firmly toward peace. He confirmed that the peace efforts would continue, and pointed out that what had been achieved up to now was in accordance with the revolution's concept of peace, namely restoring normal life to the south. He expressed his hope that the rebels would respond to the voice of reason after suffering all those defeats. He reiterated the call to the opposition, and to those carrying arms, to come forward toward peace with a new spirit to build a new Sudan.

The president of the Republic also touched on Sudanese foreign policy. He stressed that it was built on clear principles, that it was based on fairness, respect for peoples, and non-interference in the affairs of others. He pointed out that the stands of Sudan in the international arena were clear, as Sudan rejected all attempts to belittle its independence, sovereignty, and decisions. He stressed that Sudan's role had become effective in regional and international organizations.

The president of the Republic went on to say that Sudan had begun an effective dialogue to return to relations of cooperation with a number of western states, confirming that Sudan did not work to rupture relations with others, but that it did refuse to be under the command of others. The leader of the revolution clarified that the next stage would witness many popular initiatives in all fields, and confirmed that the government would support all those efforts.

Al-Mahdi Disowns Alleged Antigovernment Plot

AB0407161294 Paris AFP in English 1517 GMT 04 Jul 94

[Text] Khartoum, July 4 (AFP)—Sudanese former prime minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has been released from 13 days' detention and disassociated himself from an alleged anti-government plot by his UMMA party, Sudanese television said.

Al-Mahdi late Sunday [3 July] read a statement on television in which he said he underwent interrogation for six days following his arrest on June 20.

Three of his senior aides were arrested a month earlier.

Al-Mahdi said the first time he heard of the plot for which he was held responsible was after his arrest and interrogation. He said during the interrogation he was shown confessions by his arrested aides Hammad Bagadi, Abdul Rahman Farah and Saif Eddin Saeed. The three men had confessed to contacts with the Egyptian consul in Khartoum who had been plotting to carry out attacks on key installations and personalities, al-Mahdi said.

Al-Mahdi said he has expressed his opposition to the government in ways other than the violence of urban guerrilla warfare and rejected assassination and sabotage as contrary to Islamic teachings and Sudanese character.

Yemen

First Unilateral Cease-Fire Announced by Aden

NC0307205394 Paris AFP in English 2007 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 3 (AFP)—Southern Yemeni leaders announced a ceasefire to begin at midnight (2100 GMT) on Sunday [3 July] in a statement broadcast by Aden television.

The ceasefire is the first to be declared unilaterally by the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic (YDR) in the two-month civil war.

The statement said the ceasefire was "in response to the appeal by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the same day for the warring parties to halt fighting."

Northern authorities have called five ceasefires in the war, but all have collapsed within hours.

A joint ceasefire signed by north and south in Moscow Thursday—the sixth in the war—collapsed amid a renewed bombardment of Aden Friday.

War broke out on May 5 between the northern forces of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and those of his southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Cease-Fire Reportedly Breaks Down

NC0407065994 Paris AFP in English 0436 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, July 4 (AFP)—Artillery duels resumed between north and south Yemeni forces here at dawn Monday [4 July], breaking the seventh ceasefire in the two-month civil war.

Besieging northern gunners concentrated on the airport, and clouds of smoke were seen rising from hangars. The portside road linking the oil complex of Little Aden to the rest of the city and partly held by northern troops for the past week was also a target.

The guns had fallen silent late Sunday, half-an-hour before the southern-declared ceasefire came into effect at midnight, and the night was calm.

It was the seventh ceasefire to be declared since fighting between northern and southern forces broke out on May 5, and the first to be declared unilaterally by the south.

The last truce, agreed by both sides last Thursday in Moscow following Russian mediation, collapsed after just 20 minutes. None of the first five, all declared by the north, lasted more than a few hours.

Since June 11, the city has come under daily fire from the besiegers, and a total of 483 people have been killed, according to hospital figures tallied by AFP.

[Paris AFP in English at 0009 GMT on 4 July carries a related Sanaa-datelined report, which adds the following:

["A new attempt will be made Monday to repair the pumping station that provides Aden with most of its fresh water, following its destruction in fighting between north and south Yemeni forces.

["A northern official said late Sunday the north had asked the south to supply the spare parts necessary to repair the Bi'r Nasir pumping station, 15 kilometres (10 miles) north of Aden.

["The plant was damaged last Tuesday and fell into the hands of northern forces the following day. Since then the city's 500,000 population has had to rely on wells producing poor quality water, sparking warnings by experts of potential health problems.

["Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Fassil, head of the Yemen water authority, was quoted by Sanaa's SABA' news agency as saying that the request for the spare parts had been transmitted through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

["Blaming the breakaway south for the destruction of the pumping station, he said that 'all the equipment and parts necessary for the repair are in the hands of the secessionists.'

["In Aden an official spokesman said Sunday that engineers would try Monday to reach Bi'r Nasir to evaluate the damage 'caused by the north' before beginning repairs.

["He said the self-proclaimed Yemen Democratic Republic appealed to international organisations and friendly countries to put pressure on Sanaa to agree to the Bi'r Nasir area becoming a demilitarised zone.

["An official spokesman in Sanaa said Saturday that northern forces had been withdrawn to one kilometre from the pumping station, but correspondents on the front lines reported Sunday that continued fierce fighting prevented engineers from carrying out repairs to the plant.

["However hope was raised following an announcement by the south of a unilateral ceasefire. No artillery fire was heard from either side an hour after it came into effect at midnight Sunday (2100 GMT).

["ICRC sanitation expert Stephen Tannock warned Saturday that the situation would "become untenable in 48 hours if the population of Aden remains short of drinking water."

["World Health Organisation representative Yasin Ginawi said in Sanaa that outbreaks of cholera and dysentery were spreading throughout the war zones in Yemen and at least 10 percent of the sick were likely to die."]

Northern Troops Reportedly Advance on al-Bid Base

North Forces 5 Km From al-Mukalla

NC0507093194 Paris AFP in English 0825 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Aden, Yemen, July 5 (AFP)—Northern forces were on Tuesday [5 July] five kilometers (three miles) from al-Mukalla after breaking through defenses around the port city where southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid is based, an independent source said.

Northern Yemeni troops have also occupied some suburban areas of al-Mukalla, 700 kilometers (434 miles) east of Aden, and fighting raged between rival forces at the entrance to the city, said the source requesting anonymity.

Aden and al-Mukalla, where al-Bid moved two weeks after war broke out on May 5, are the last strongholds of southern forces which declared a separate state on May 21.

A senior military official in Sanaa told AFP on Monday that northern forces had entered al-Mukalla. Southern officials denied the claim.

Northern forces occupied part of al-Mukalla's port before moving into other areas of the city, said the official requesting anonymity.

Troops were attempting "to control the whole of al-Mukalla's port, which is used to supply arms to the (southern) secessionists," he said.

"Large quantities of weapons were seized and a large number of secessionists were taken prisoner, or gave themselves up to government forces," the official added.

The airport at Rayyan, 35 kilometres (22 miles) east of al-Mukalla, was still under southern control, he said. [passage omitted]

Northern Troops Capture al-Mukalla

NC0507101694 Paris AFP in English 1012 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 5 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni troops on Tuesday [5 July] captured the southern city of al-Mukalla, where southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid is based, an independent source here said.

Al-Mukalla, the second largest city in the south, "has fallen into the hands of northern forces," the source said.

Sanaa 'Source' Confirms Fall of al-Mukalla

JN0507052494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source"; place and date not given]

[Text] With God's support, with the valor of stalwart men in the Armed Forces, the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy; thanks to the national and unionist efforts of the loyal sons of Hadhramaut and their sincere cooperation with their Armed Forces; and as a blessed fruit of the great persistence and steadfastness of the stalwart men in the face of the treacherous, hostile acts of the gang of rebellion and secession, which did not abide at all by all the declared initiatives to cease fire, the Armed Forces units shouldered the challenges of the sacred, historic responsibility to defend unity and constitutional legitimacy, crush the rebels, smash their mad war machine, and foil their conspiratorial, destructive, and secessionist scheme.

The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy yesterday pursued the remnants of the evil secessionist gang on the Hadhramaut axis, clearing completely a number of districts in Hadhramaut of all dens and pockets. They managed to take control of the city of al-Mukalla, the governorate's capital, late yesterday afternoon.

The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy also seized a large number of mercenaries and officers and soldiers, who were sent from abroad in the so-called special peace force that was sent to our country within the framework of the scheme to fragment the homeland and conspire against the people and their unity and democratic and developmental achievements.

The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy also seized large quantities of weapons, vehicles, and military hardware, some of which were used only recently in our country and were not previously possessed by the Yemeni Armed Forces units.

Our Armed Forces also downed a Sukhoi in yesterday's combat operations. The plane fell in flames near al-Mukalla beach.

The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy received a number of brother officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers who joined them freely and voluntarily after they suffered the agonies of pressures, suppression, and coercion by the rebel leaders. As soon as they had the chance to get rid of these pressures, they rejoined legitimacy, unity, and democracy.

On the Aden axis, the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy confronted a number of desperate attacks which adopted deceitful and foxy methods under the false claims of accepting the cease-fire. Because these were exposed plots, they were confronted and foiled. The neighborhoods in which the Armed Forces are deployed were cleansed of all pockets and fallen fortifications, particularly the positions which were used by the rebels to shell the areas in which the water projects that feed Aden are based. This will provide an opportunity for quick repairs of the damage that resulted from the rebels' attack against this vital project. They rebels did the same in the Abyan Governorate in the first week after flaring the tragic, bloody sedition and in Lahij Governorate when they were driven out of it. They continued their treacherous, premeditated crimes against the Aden Governorate to deprive the neighborhoods of valiant Aden from water supplies. These neighborhoods will not have to suffer for long now that the rebels have suffered a final, clear military defeat. They now have only one choice—to continue the dialogue on the basis of accepting and believing in the principled, national, and firm constants of the Republic of Yemen and its one, and, God willing, victorious people.

Al-'Ansi: Al-Mukalla Under Government Control

JN0507114594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Ansi, chief of the General Department at the Yemeni General People's Congress, in Sanaa by Ahmad Birru in the studio "a short while ago;" from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] [Birru] Mr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Ansi, chief of the General Department at the General People's Congress, there have been reports from Sanaa that the government troops have entered al-Mukalla. How true are these reports?

[Al-'Ansi] Yes. Praise be God, today it was officially announced that the forces of constitutional legitimacy, the government forces, entered al-Mukalla, the capital of Hadhramaut. The city is now under the full control of the government forces, which were received very well by all citizens in Hadhramaut. All of the forces, which were in Hadhramaut and which came from a remote area in a neighboring country, have surrendered and joined the forces of constitutional legitimacy. Districts in Hadhramaut around al-Mukalla and others were combed, and the remnants of the mercenaries were pursued and arrested. We believe this is very good news, not only for our Yemeni people, but also for the Arab nation, because the fall of al-Mukalla, or the return of al-Mukalla to the constitutional legitimacy, means that fighting has practically ended and that only a few pockets remain.

[Birru] Mr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Ansi, does this mean the entire city is now under the control of the government forces?

[Al-'Ansi] Yes, the entire city, and even the pockets and the surrounding districts have been combed and terminated.

[Birru] You have mentioned that troops came from a neighboring country. Do these troops belong to that neighboring country or are they Yemeni troops?

[Al-'Ansi] No, they are Yemeni troops that were trained in a neighboring state before unity to confront the Marxist threat in the south, and they remained there after [unity]. Now because of the events and circumstances, these forces were pushed....[sentence incomplete]

[Birru, interrupting] Where are the Socialist Party leaders who were in al-Mukalla?

[Al-'Ansi] I think most of the secessionist political leaders had already fled. The Socialist Party leaders who remained in al- Mukalla announced their support for, and welcome of the forces of unity. Therefore, I think we have covered a large distance on the path toward Yemen's stability and unity.

[Birru] What are the latest developments concerning besieged Aden, because it is reported that the civilians are facing a very difficult humanitarian situation. What is the situation in Aden now?

[Al-'Ansi] There is in fact some exaggeration with regard to the humanitarian situation in Aden. There is indeed a water shortage and other crises because the secessionists destroyed the water supply station. I believe the brother president ordered the dispatch of technicians and workers to join the Red Cross mission in the area. God willing, today the fires of the Socialist Party, or the secessionist elements of the Socialist Party, which were shelling that station will be silenced. I think that within 48 hours, the water will, God willing start running. The military situation in Aden is very good and the legitimacy forces are now dealing with some remaining pockets in certain Aden neighborhoods.

[Birru] The government forces have entered al-Mukalla. Why have they not entered Aden? Are there any red lines? Why have they not entered Aden, and, maybe, put an end to the whole thing?

[Al-'Ansi] Dear brother, Aden is under full control from a military viewpoint. Some 60 or 70 percent of Aden is now controlled by the legitimacy forces. But, most of the rebellious and secessionist forces are now taking refuge in houses and within residential quarters. Therefore, we are trying our best to allow citizens to flee or take refuge in safer places and to allow the rebel forces to surrender after they discover that all their attempts are futile. I think that Aden is practically under control.

[Birru] Are there any contacts with some leaders in Aden to ask them to surrender or negotiate in order to spare the city fierce battles and losses?

[Al-'Ansi] These calls have been made time and again and we are today repeating these calls to all our brothers in the Socialist Party, the unionists brothers, and not only the unionists, but also the deceived ones, to give themselves up and they will be very well received. We do not want any person other than the 16 persons whose names were mentioned in the bill of indictment. We will let bygones be bygones and let us all start building the united Yemen. We continue to emphasize this appeal and I believe the brother president today made such an appeal to everyone.

Aden 'Source' Denies Fall of al-Mukalla

LD0407194894 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Excerpt] A military source [illegible] Ministry in Aden has denied an ar[illegible] today that northern Y[illegible] Mukalla, the second large[illegible] Ye[illegible] The source said that these repo[illegible] they form part of the psychologic[illegible] Sanaa against the south

Aden was today subjected to heavy shelling, unprecedented since the northern troops began their siege of the city. As a result, 32 civilians were killed and 175 were injured. All the districts and suburbs of Aden, which is surrounded on all sides by northern troops, came under fire from Katyusha rockets, heavy artillery, and tank artillery.

In another development, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has declared that the United Nations has not been in touch with Egypt to ask it to send monitors to supervise the cease-fire in Yemen. 'Abd al-Rahman al-Jifri, vice president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen proclaimed in the south, said that the United Nations asked Egypt, Syria, Morocco, the Sultanate of Oman, Jordan, Algeria, Mali, Russia, Malaysia, and Indonesia to contribute to a contingent of 150 observers to supervise the cease-fire in Yemen. [passage omitted]

Northern Yemen Accused of Using Chemical Weapons

LD0207183294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1746 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, 2 Jul (KUNA)—South Yemeni officials here today accused north Yemeni forces of using chemical weapons in their repeated attempts to storm the besieged city of Aden. Twenty people have been killed and 50 others injured as a result.

In a statement to KUNA, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, the vice president of the self-declared democratic republic of Yemen, said: The northerners have been using internationally banned weapons in their shelling of inhabited districts in Aden since this morning. Al-Jifri added that medical examination of the injured and the dead who had been taken to the hospital revealed that they had been exposed to "burning chemical weapons."

Al-Jifri stressed that within the next 24 hours, the authorities in Aden will prepare a report with evidence on the use of these weapons by northern forces.

The director of the teaching hospital in Aden, Dr. 'Abd al-Muhsin Hamam, told KUNA that he had noticed strange burns on the bodies of the injured and the dead who had been brought to the hospital from the suburbs that had been subjected to random northern shelling. Hamam did not confirm that the burns were caused by chemical weapons. However, he said that they were strange burns, which he had not seen before. He added: It seems that the northerners are using new weapons.

Sanaa Denies Charges

NC0307131994 Paris AFP in English 0925 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, July 3 (AFP)—The northern Yemeni authorities Sunday [3 July] denied allegations that their forces were using chemical weapons but accused the southerners of dropping napalm and phosphorus bombs.

A northern spokesman quoted by the official news agency SABA' said Aden's accusations that the north was using chemical weapons "are aimed at mobilising world opinion so that they can achieve their evil goals" and divide Yemen.

Southern "vice-president" 'Abd al-Rahman al-Jifri told the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA Saturday that the northern forces besieging Aden had bombed the city with "chemical weapons."

However, SABA' said foreign journalists had found wounded northern soldiers in Sanaa hospitals with burns from napalm and phosphorus bombs.

Last week doctors at northern Yemen's largest military hospital said war victims had been admitted with such burns.

The northern spokesman also accused the southern forces loyal to 'Ali Salim al-Bid of receiving supplies of sophisticated modern weapons, such as MiG-29 warplanes and self-propelled guns, which the former South Yemen armed forces did not possess before.

The arms arrived at al-Mukalla, a port city 700 kilometres (434 miles) east of Aden, where al-Bid has been rallying his forces, the spokesman said.

Civilian casualties on Saturday brought to 470 the number of people killed in Aden since a concerted northern bombardment began on June 11, with 1,408 wounded, according to a toll compiled by AFP.

Al-Bid's forces have been battling those loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih since May 5.

'Rebels' Accused of Using Napalm, Phosphorous Bombs

JN0307114394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 3 Jul 94

[Text] A responsible Yemeni source has asserted that the secessionists have used napalm and phosphorous bombs in their shelling of the legitimate government troops.

The Yemeni News Agency, SABA' quoted an official in Sanaa as saying that the secessionists' claims that the legitimate government troops have used internationally-banned weapons are baseless, and aimed at mobilizing the world public and (?internationalizing) the Yemeni crisis.

The agency quoted foreign reporters who have visited hospitals in Sanaa as confirming that 80 soldiers of the legitimate Yemeni Government troops were wounded by napalm and phosphorous bombs. The agency added that the legitimacy troops seized a quantity of brand new weapons during the battle for Hadhramaut. These weapons included MiG-29 planes and self-propelled guns. This confirms, the agency noted, that the secessionists are receiving arms shipments from some neighboring countries.

North Hit Aden Airport; ICRC Warning on Water

NC0207065994 Paris AFP in English 0633 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Aden, Yemen, July 2 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni troops besieging Aden pounded the city's airport with intense rocket fire early Saturday [2 July], setting hangars ablaze.

Volleys of Katyusha rockets slammed into the airport, in northern Aden, and some also hit a residential area nearby.

No immediate casualty toll was available.

Meanwhile northern and southern troops fought with artillery, anti-tank rockets and small arms on the frontline on the edge of Aden's suburbs.

The Red Cross in Aden warned Saturday that the port city was suffering an acute shortage of water.

"The situation will become untenable in 48 hours if the population of Aden remains short of drinking water," said Stephen Tannock, a sanitation expert with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Heavy fighting prevented the ICRC from crossing the frontline Friday to repair the water pumping station at Bi'r Nasr, 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of Aden.

The pumping station, which supplies water to the city's 500,000 inhabitants, was damaged on Tuesday.

Tannock said 44 artesian wells being used by the inhabitants were "not sufficient for the whole population of Aden—there is not enough water." [passage omitted]

Latest Casualties Reported; Fighting Update

NC0207164794 Paris AFP in English 1622 GMT 2 Jul 94

[By Muhammed 'Attar]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 2 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni forces on the edge of Aden pounded the city's airport with rockets Saturday [2 July] in a new bombardment which also killed seven civilians.

Three children were among the dead and 53 more were wounded in shelling of northern and western suburbs near the frontline, hospital officials said.

Northern troops hit the city's airport with Katyusha rockets, setting hangars ablaze, as the north's planning minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said the main goal was to "neutralise" the airport.

Al-Iryani told London-based Arab newspaper Al-Hayah: "We told the Americans our only objective is to neutralise Aden airport, and not to lay siege to the city."

The airport is closed to civilian traffic but is still being used by the southern air force for launching attacks on northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Al-Iryani, speaking during a visit to New York, also accused southern forces of using new Mig-29 warplanes Thursday to bomb the Ma'rib oil field east of Sanaa. The raid wounded 10 people and halted production, according to northern authorities.

"Neither north nor south Yemen used to own Mig-29 jets," al- Iryani said.

Civilian casualties Saturday brought to 464 the number of people killed in the city since the regular northern bombardment began on June 11, with 1,395 wounded.

Northern troops have advanced to within one kilometre (less than a mile) of the city and have cut off the south's access to the oil refinery at Little Aden.

Late Friday the breakaway southern presidential council appealed to the international community to "save Aden."

"The districts of Aden...are burning, and the whole world is just appealing to the two sides for a ceasefire," an official statement said.

The Red Cross in Aden warned Saturday that the port city was suffering an acute shortage of water.

"The situation will become untenable in 48 hours if the population of Aden remains short of drinking water," said Stephen Tannock, a sanitation expert with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The city's 500,000 inhabitants have been without running water since a water pumping station at Bi'r Nasir, 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of Aden, was damaged on Tuesday.

Heavy fighting prevented the ICRC from crossing the frontline Friday to repair the pumping station.

The official northern news agency SABA said northern authorities tried to escort the ICRC repair team but "the team could not fulfil its mission because the (southern) rebels did not respect the ceasefire."

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali appealed to Salih to take "immediate" steps so that Aden's water supply could be restored.

"The population of Aden cannot be left to die of thirst," Butrus- Ghali said, urging an immediate unconditional ceasefire.

A ceasefire brokered in Moscow Thursday—the sixth in the civil war—collapsed when northern troops resumed their bombardment of Aden Friday.

War broke out between Salih's forces and those of his southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid on May 5, shattering four years of uneasy unity after former North and South Yemen merged.

'Fierce' Clashes Reported in Aden Suburbs

NC0407105794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1027 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—A military source in Aden has denied press reports that northern forces control 60 percent of Aden.

In a statement faxed to MENA from Aden today, the source said these news reports are absolutely groundless. He added that fierce clashes are now taking place on the outskirts of Aden with unprecedented violence and that the northern forces are advancing very slowly because of the unrelenting resistance of the forces defending Aden.

Elsewhere, medical sources in Aden said northern forces' shelling of Dar Sa'd, Shaykh 'Uthman, and al-Mansurah neighborhoods killed 25 people, including 8 children.

'Worst Day of Shelling' Leaves 32 Civilians Dead

NC0407165194 Paris AFP in English 1531 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 4 (AFP)—At least 32 civilians were killed and 175 wounded in the southern Yemeni city of Aden Monday [4 July], in the worst day of shelling since the civil war broke out on May 5.

The casualty toll, which did not include soldiers or people receiving medical care on the spot, was the largest daily toll of the war, hospital officials said.

Intense bombardments began at dawn with the collapse of the seventh ceasefire in the war, and became even heavier in the afternoon.

Shells, Katyusha rockets and missiles slammed into all Aden's suburbs and city centre areas, especially the northern suburbs of al-Mansurah and Shaykh 'Uthman.

The two working-class areas, which were still heavily-populated and bustling on Saturday, were almost deserted on Monday after the morning bombardment.

A well fitted with electric pumps at Shaykh 'Uthman, which Red Cross workers had hoped to put into use on Monday to alleviate the city's desperate water shortage, was in flames.

Northern gunners targeted Aden airport, but at least three southern warplanes were able to take off from there on Monday.

The Khur maksar suburb surrounding the airport suffered the heaviest casualty figures during the day's shelling.

Somalian refugees at a camp at Bassadayn next to the frontline, near the northern suburb of Dar Sa'd, were also among the wounded, as were residents of the city centre Crater district.

The ceasefire, which started at midnight Sunday, was the first to be declared unilaterally by the south.

The last truce, agreed by both sides last Thursday in Moscow, collapsed after just 20 minutes. None of the first five, all declared by the north, lasted more than a few hours.

The casualties brought to 515 the number of civilians killed in Aden since daily bombardments began on June 11, with more than 1,500 wounded, according to an AFP toll based on hospital figures.

Shelling of Dar Sa'd Interrupts ICRC Mission

JN0207073894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] A delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] met with the southwestern axis command in the southwestern axis yesterday. The talks addressed the humanitarian activities that ICRC representatives may carry out to aid those harmed by the renegade and secessionist gang's random shelling, which targeted the citizens' houses, drinking and power projects, and vital installations in the Governorates of Lahaj and Aden.

The southwestern axis command expressed its readiness to extend full cooperation to the ICRC to facilitate its humanitarian mission of mitigating the citizens' suffering.

In a statement to a correspondent of the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the official in charge of the ICRC delegation said that the delegation's mission is to repair the water and power stations shelled by the renegade and secessionist forces as soon as possible, to save civilian human lives, to help the ICRC office in Aden, and to ensure the safety of the personnel manning this office by providing them with a car equipped with communications equipment for transportation purposes.

The ICRC official commended the cooperation and responsiveness demonstrated by the Yemeni Government and the axis command to facilitate his mission. He added that the cooperation the ICRC delegation has received from the Yemeni Government and the axis command is outstanding.

The ICRC delegation, accompanied by several officers of the axis command, has left for the areas of Sabr and Dar Sa'd to carry out its humanitarian mission after the announcement of the new cease- fire agreement.

Upon its arrival in Dar Sa'd, the ICRC delegation was surprised by intense random rocket and artillery shelling of the area by the renegade and secessionist gang. Some shells fell near the ICRC team and this prompted it to terminate its humanitarian mission, and to return to the axis command.

North Says Aden Water Facilities Destroyed by South

JN0207203894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] An official source at the Public Corporation of Water and Sewage has stated that before they left Bi'r Nasir, the forces of rebellion destroyed electromechanical facilities and the water collection tanks receiving water through the main 42-inch pipe from 52 Wadi Abyan wells supplying the collection reservoir at Bi'r Nasir. The source indicated that the rebels did not confine themselves to this action. After they were expelled from the Abyan Governorate they wrecked the main pipe that carries water from the Abyan wells to the complext at B'ir Nasir.

Following instructions from Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, the corporation tried to repair the facility and assigned its engineers the task of putting it back into operation. Two technicians were martyred on the work site, after a contact mine planted by the criminal secessionists exploded on a spigot.

This incident, the source added, is an example of what the corporation's workers have been encountering with many of the pipes and facilities. The corporation's officials met with the man in charge of water, who works with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], Mr. [name indistinct], who on 30 (?June) together with Engineer Husayn al-Shaykh proceeded to the site to assess the damages and determine what the ICRC can do to help the corporation reactivate this important source of water for our children and brothers in Aden city. However, the noncompliance of the rebels with the cease-fire resolution had kept this task from being completed.

The source denounced the separatist allegation that the water supplies had been cut off by the forces of unity and legitimacy. They ignored the separatist Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas' statement that they had destroyed Bi'r Nasir well last Monday, the source added.

Salih Said To Order Aden Water System Repaired

NC0207210494 Paris AFP in English 2041 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, July 2 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih told UN chief Butrus Butrus-Ghali he ordered repairs to a vital water pumping station in the besieged southern city of Aden, the northern news agency SABA' said Saturday [2 July].

Salih told Butrus-Ghali by telephone that he "ordered a team of engineers to go to Bi'r Nasir in the morning, accompanied by a representative from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to repair the pumping station," the agency said.

The UN secretary general had appealed to Salih to take "immediate" steps to ensure Aden's water supply could be restored to its 500,000 inhabitants.

The pumping station at Bi'r Nasir, 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of the city, was damaged in fighting Tuesday and occupied by northern troops on Wednesday.

Heavy fighting twice prevented the ICRC from crossing the frontline to carry out repairs on Friday and Saturday.

Butrus-Ghali urged an unconditional ceasefire in the two-month civil war, adding: "The population of Aden cannot be left to die of thirst."

Meanwhile ICRC sanitation expert Stephen Tannock warned: "The situation will become untenable in 48 hours if the population of Aden remains short of drinking water."

An official spokesman at Sanaa said repair work began on the pumping station on Saturday.

"Northern forces pulled back one kilometre (half a mile) from the work so as not to give (southern) rebels the pretext to continue their bombardments," he said, quoted by SABA'.

There was no independent confirmation of this.

He added that two workers at the pumping station were killed by a mine during initial repair attempts, without saying when the deaths occurred.

Earlier, SABA' said a team of engineers sent by northern authorities to repair the station "hadn't fulfilled their mission because the rebels did not respect the ceasefire."

The spokesman added: "Sanaa welcomes the contribution from any state or regional or international organisation," to help repair the pumping station, and blamed southern leaders for the "suffering of Aden's inhabitants."

Salih also told Butrus-Ghali of his "concern" to respect the ceasefire in Yemen, which southern "rebels continue to violate."

A ceasefire brokered in Moscow Thursday—the sixth in the civil war—collapsed amid renewed bombardment of Aden by northern forces on Friday.

War broke out between Salih's forces and those of his southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid on May 5, shattering four years of uneasy unity after former North and South Yemen merged.

Foreign Help To Restore Aden's Water Supply Welcomed

JN0307102294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source" at the Council of Ministers; date not given]

[Text] First, the city of Aden is supplied with water by the Lahij and Abyan Governorates within the context of the Greater Aden Water Project that has been given the number C/17,390 by the World Bank, which is financing this project.

Second, when the Aden water system was linked with the water wells in Abyan, the power stations of Aden were also linked with those of the Abyan Governorate so that the Abyan pumps could be operated within the context of the project financed by the Arab Fund for Electrical Linkage.

Third, water is pumped from the Abyan and Lahij Governorates to a single collection station; namely, Bi'r Nasir, which is half way between Aden and the city of al-Hawtah in Lahij.

Fourth, when the legitimacy forces took control of the Abyan Governorate more than a month ago, the power supply of the Abyan Governorate was instantly cut off. Consequently, there was no electrical power to operate the water pumps that pump water to Bi'r Nasir. At that time, the world community did not heed the appeals and calls made by the Republic of Yemen that this act by the rebels be condemned.

Fifth, nonetheless, the legitimacy forces stationed in Abyan attempted to operate the pumping stations, using separate and very old electrical units. The Ministry of Planning urged international organizations, in a letter addressed to them in June 1994, to provide help by supplying the country with power generators to use in pumping water and managing hospitals in affected governorates.

Sixth, when the legitimacy forces entered Bi'r Nasir for the first time, they attempted to carry out some repairs necessitated by the shelling originating from the rebels' pocket of resistance in the al-Najmah al-Hamra' camp. This pocket of resistance attempted to regain control of Bi'r Nasir. This, indeed, took place, due to the limited resistance put up by the legitimacy forces, which were eager to protect the reservoirs and pumps.

Seventh, prior to their withdrawal from this pocket of resistance in the al-Najmah al-Hamra' camp, the rebel forces, having been routed, attacked the pumping station, reservoirs, and the reserve power station. This area remained almost vacant for several days. However, when the legitimacy forces entered it, another pocket of resistance in the Za'walah farm continued the artillery shelling of the legitimacy forces in Bi'r Nasir.

Eighth, when the legitimacy forces regained control of Bi'r Nasir, Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih ordered the dispatch of a technical team affiliated with the Public Water Corporation to Bi'r Nasir. When the technicians inspected the water system there to make the necessary repairs, they found a contact mine on a major spigot that exploded instantly, martyring two of the station's technicians.

Ninth, for all these reasons, the technical teams, which were acting in cooperation with a team of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], were once again unable to make joint repairs of the pumping station in Bi'r Nasir when they were surprised by the shelling of the rebels on Friday, 1 July 1994.

Tenth, a technical team consisting of engineers and technicians affiliated with the Ministry of Construction and the Public Water Corporation headed for the Bi'r Nasir area yesterday, Saturday. They are currently attempting to repair the pumps and the water collection reservoirs in Bi'r Nasir.

In implementation of directives issued at noon yesterday by the brother chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, our Armed Forces units stationed there were pulled back one kilometer from the work site so that their presence could not be used as an excuse by the rebels to continue their shelling of the area, and to consequently obstruct the repair of the water supply system. For the rebels seek to maintain the cut-off in the water supplies to Aden to instigate the public opinion and use this for political and media purposes.

Eleventh, while explaining these facts to the local and world public, the Government of the Republic of Yemen reiterates its constant readiness to cooperate with the ICRC. Likewise, it affirms that it is extremely careful to ensure the restoration of Aden's water supplies. Hence, instructions were issued yesterday to make another attempt to carry out the necessary repairs. These instructions called for the dispatch of an additional team to assist the efforts currently under way to restore Aden's water supplies to normal. This team will be accompanied by a representative of the ICRC. The government welcomes any effort or contribution toward that end, by any country or agency in the region or the world at large.

Twelfth, it is urgent and necessary that the countries that are interested in peace and stability in Yemen and the region at large bring pressure to bear on the rebel forces to make them halt their use of Aden's residential neighborhoods as barricades. It is necessary for the world to realize that the tragedies of the Yemeni people, and the Aden residents in particular were primarily caused by the rebellion against the legitimate government, the blatant foreign intervention, as well as the constant support for the rebels in terms of arms and hardware.

Thirteen, the Yemeni Government strongly regrets the fallacies, the fabrications, and the withholding of facts. Therefore, it urges all military attaches of the permanent members [of the UN Security Council], as well as media persons to be present at forward positions to ascertain the facts as they are. The legitimate government's troops will authorize visits to wherever they want to go.

ICRC Warns of Clean Water Situation in Aden

LD0307105694 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 0900 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] The conflict in Yemen continues to escalate, and in the southern stronghold of Aden the water station has been damaged and there is no clean water for the city. Carla Drysdale spoke to Martin Merkelbach, the coordinator for Yemen at the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] about what is threatening to become a humanitarian disaster.

[Begin recording] [Merkelbach] The situation has developed dramatically in the last few days. As the siege of Aden continued the frontlines have moved and the power supply from outside have been cut off to the city, which means that the city—the 400,000 people in the city now rely exclusively on wells inside the city which are untreated water. The amount of water that's contained in these wells at a great maximum will give about three liters of water per person a day, which is completely insufficient considering that the World Health Organization considers seven liters a minimum per person per day. The problem we're facing is that we're trying to get access to the main pumping station, which is north of Aden, called Bir Nasir, to see what the problem is there and if we can get it restarted again. Without this pumping station opening up again the situation in Aden in a matter of hours—not even counting days, but hours—might turn absolutely catastrophic because people will come under such pressure that serious, serious trouble will break out among the civilian population because people will do no matter what to get enough water.

[Drysdale] Has the North agreed yet to anything to alleviate the water problem in Aden?

[Merkelbach] Well, both parties have agreed, and they have publicly stated so, that they would let the ICRC in cooperation with their engineers have a look at Bir Nasir to get it going again. Unfortunately, the situation on the frontline, where this pumping station is situated, is so tense that we have been unable with minimum guarantees to be able to look at this station. As soon as we show up fighting breaks out—fighting breaks out sporadically anyway—and after these two days of relative calm it seems that the cease-fire that was announced has not been successful and there are frequent exchanges of artillery at the moment on the frontline around Aden and on the military targets in Aden itself.

[Drysdale] How long will it take before epidemics break out, with the water situation?

[Merkelbach] Difficult to say. To just put a few details on that, the water that people are using now is untreated water—it comes out of old wells, let's say in mosques or private wells that people used in town. In general, people are not vaccinated, so they're more susceptible to any sort of disease that might come out of contaminated water. We have not information that the water is contaminated, but we should bear in mind that it's well over 40 degrees centigrade in town, so whenever something breaks out it will spread very rapidly. [end recording]

Official Demands Water Repair Equipment From Aden

JN0407060794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', brother Muhammad 'Ali al-Sayyil, head of the Public Water and Sewage Authority, has explained that a team from the International [Committee of the] Red Cross [ICRC] visited the water pumping sites and facilities in Aden on Friday, 1 July 1994. The team was accompanied by a representative of the authority. The team checked water pumping problems and the possibility of repairing what had been damaged by the secessionists.

However, the water engineer at the Aden branch did not show up to meet the team at the work site as agreed previously with the ICRC representative in Aden. Al-Sayyil said that when the team arrived at the agreed point, no one showed up from Aden. The team was surprised when the rebels fired Katyusha rockets on the place where they were waiting.

Al-Sayyil added: The team informed the command of the southern axis of the forces of legitimacy of what happened, and they expressed their willingness to cooperate with us once again if the rebels cease fire to do the necessary troubleshooting on the Aden water supply system and repair it.

He added that the team went the next day to the pumping and storage areas in Lahij and found that the supply pipe between Lahij and B'ir Nasir had been hit by the rebels half way in al-Mahallah region, 5-6 km from Lahij reservoir. The diameter of this main line is 5 inches. The team also found that three power generators had been damaged by the planes of the rebels.

The head of the Public Water and Sewage Authority said the team found that all equipment and spare parts at the water facilities are currently under the control of the rebels. In order for the ICRC to be able to repair what had been destroyed, it has asked the Red Cross in Sanaa to ask the Red Cross in Aden to provide the necessary equipment for repair from the warehouses of the authority branch in Aden.

The head of the Public Water and Sewage Authority concluded his statement: Once the necessary equipment is provided, we, in cooperation with the ICRC, will quickly repair the damage. He noted that this equipment is not available at the authority or its branches in the other governorates. Also, this equipment is not available in the republic's markets. He hoped this equipment will be provided by the Red Cross in Aden as soon as possible.

'Rebel' Planes Reportedly Raid Aden Water Plant

JN0507063494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] A responsible source has stated that the rebels yesterday launched an air raid against the Bi'r Nasir area at a time when the engineers and technicians and the International Commision of the Red Cross [ICRC] mission were trying to repair the storage tanks, the pipelines, and the pumps at the Aden water plant in Bi'r Nasir area. The rebels against legitimacy destroyed a large part of the plant before they retreated from the area a few days ago.

The source added that the engineers and technicians and the ICRC officials continued their technical inspection and efforts to repair the main pipeline between Lahij and Bi'r Nasir. That pipeline will be used to pump water temporarily from Lahij Governorate to Aden until the destroyed storage tanks, electricity generators, and pipelines in Bi'r Nasir are repaired. Engineers from the Public Water Authority are continuing their efforts to repair the plant.

He added that the technicians, in coordination with the ICRC representatives, will inspect the water pipeline between Bi'r Nasir and (?al-Baridah) area in Khormaksar to ensure that the rebels did not inflict any damage on it.

The source also stated that Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, has ordered the competent agencies to quickly send a convoy of water tankers assembled from all governorates in the Republic to transport water from Lahij to Aden to supply the citizens in Aden neighborhoods with drinking water as an emergency relief measure until the water pumps in the Bi'r Nasir area are repaired. Salih also ordered the Armed Forces units stationed in Bi'r Nasir area to retreat one km from the water plant so that their presence there will not give the rebels the pretext to continue their shelling of the area and hamper the efforts of the engineers and the Red Cross representatives to quickly repair the plant and supply Aden with water.

He noted that the rebels are deliberately and persistently seeking to hamper Aden's drinking water supply in order to increase the suffering of citizens in the city and utilize this suffering for political and propaganda purposes.

The source confirmed that the government of the Republic of Yemen welcomes any effort by, or contribution from any state or regional or international organization to fulfill this humanitarian task.

Brahimi Sees No 'Real Desire' for Cease-Fire

PM0107151294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Jul 94 p3

[Interview with Lakhdar Brahimi, special envoy of the UN secretary general to Yemen, by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Text] [Matar] What is the latest on your efforts to find a cease-fire mechanism?

[Brahimi] We should first achieve a cease-fire. The situation in Aden is now very bad. There is no life at all and the electricity has been cut off. The brothers in the north have given us a definite promise that a cease-fire will begin at 0800 on Thursday (yesterday) to enable the Red Cross to bring in some humanitarian aid. We have also made efforts to ensure the arrival of experts at the sources of water to try to repair what has been damaged.

We are in contact with the Red Cross and with the brothers in the north. We have also asked the brothers in the south to comply with that cease-fire and they agreed. We are continuing our contacts on the question of the mechanism. Quite frankly, our feeling is that when there is a real cease-fire decision and desire, then it will be possible to agree on a mechanism.

[Matar] What you are saying, in other words, is that there is no real desire for a cease-fire.

[Brahimi] Let us just say that the question of ending the fighting and entering the dialogue phase is not clear at the present time.

[Matar] Does that apply to both parties or just one?

[Brahimi] We cannot point a finger at any party at this point. That is not our job. As far as we are concerned, they are brothers in disagreement and we are trying to revive the negotiations between them, and that is why we talk to them as brothers.

[Matar] Are they responding to you as brothers?

[Brahimi] At any rate, thank God there is a relationship of great respect, cordiality, and serious communication between us and them.

[Matar] There have been six broken cease-fires. With that in mind, where do you see the seriousness?

[Brahimi] I said there was seriousness in talking to us. I do not know how to describe the relationship but it is a good relationship between us and them. That is the best description of our dealing with them. I am not talking about actions. As I said, we have reached several common positions or common grounds with them, but the words remain to be translated into a solu.ion, as the secretary general said in his report. There should be action on the ground.

[Matar] The UN role in the supervision of a mechanism is not fully clear to any of the parties, including and especially the [Security] Council members.

[Brahimi] I do not comment on the work of the Council and I do not attend all its debates, but as far as I am concerned, the Council not only welcomes but insists on the continuation of my efforts to help both sides. We will see what happens.

[Matar] We do not want to use dramatic expressions but could you explain to us the differences between the positions of the parties as to the definition of the mechanism and the identity of the observers? Will they be from the United Nations, the states of the region, or somewhere else?

[Brahimi] That is what we cannot talk about. It is here a question of the positions of the various states. There are 15 states considering their positions and making their own assessments of what is required of the parties. It is difficult for any of us to say anything without being practical. I have told you that before being a UN representative, I am an Arab who cares about what happens in Yemen. The Yemeni brothers accept me on the basis that I am "one of them." That is why we will do everything possible to help end the regrettable crisis.

Right now, I cannot comment on the consultations taking place between 15 sovereign states as to what is required and what is acceptable.

[Matar] What, in your own personal view, is the ideal formula for a mechanism?

[Brahimi] The ideal formula is one that would promote and consolidate a cease-fire and would enable the Yemenis to sit together at the negotiating table. Anything that would lead us to that is welcome. There are no sectarian, ideological, or philosophical problems.

[Matar] Is the current Yemeni problem in fact a civil war in the full sense of the word?

[Brahimi] The Yemenis are still brothers, whatever their positions and however they talk about a new or old state or form. Nobody can say that they are not Yemenis or deny that what is taking place is fighting between brothers. Is that the definition of a civil war? It is fighting between Yemeni brothers. The second or third article of the south Yemeni declaration of a new state stipulates that they work for unity. So, there is no denying that relations between the Yemenis are of a special nature, different from relations between Arabs from different countries.

[Matar] The states of the region see this war as a threat to regional security but the Security Council is still dealing with it on the basis of an assessment that plays down that threat.

[Brahimi] The secretary general's report on that matter is clear.

[Matar] But does not that call for a stronger UN and Security Council role than the current one?

[Brahimi] I do not comment on the Council's affairs, but the secretary general is undoubtedly showing interest. He has issued several statements on the matter and his report indicates that he is fully aware of the regional dimensions of the problem. It contains a significant sentence saying that history and experience have taught us that the region is directly affected by such events. So, there is full awareness of the magnitude of the problem and a strong will to contain the crisis.

The report also appeals to the states of the region to help and says that their cooperation is essential for containing the problem.

(Before the conclusion of this brief interview, it was necessary to recall Brahimi's mission in Lebanon.)

[Matar] What are the similarities and dissimilarities between your ways of dealing with the Lebanese question and the Yemeni question now?

[Brahimi] The similarities are that, first, we are in the Arab region faced with costly Arab differences which, regrettably, are fast developing into acts of destruction.

Furthermore, we are again talking to people who are very close to one another, unlike the case, say, of war between Germany and the United States. They are the same people in every sense of the word, and the same applies to Lebanon.

UN Officials Assess Shortage of Medicine, Food

JN0307145594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 3 Jul (INA)—Two officials from the UN offices in Yemen today urged the international community to extend urgent aid to Yemen to cope with the acute shortage of medicine and food and to repair sewers damaged by war.

At a news conference in Sanaa today, 'Awni al-'Ani, resident representative of the United Nations in Yemen, said that UN missions had visited seven Yemeni cities and many villages in Ta'izz, Lahij, al-'Anad, Lawdar, Zinjibar, al-Bayda', and Shabwah to acquaint themselves with the deteriorating health situation in these cities.

He said the reports prepared by the UN missions show a severe shortage of medicine and medical requirements at damaged hospitals. He added that the health situation in

Yemen faces difficulties because of a shortage of medicine and the destruction of several health establishments.

The resident UN representative also said that approximately 300,000 people have left the war-stricken cities and joined Yemeni families in other cities. These reports also disclosed that the United Nations has allocated urgent financial aid of $500,000 to purchase food and medicines and organize a three-month-long food assistance operation for 400 people, half of whom are from the city of Aden.

Asked about efforts by the missions of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to release the Iraqi teachers held by the secessionists, 'Awni al-'Ani said that the secessionists have not yet allowed any ICRC official to visit the detained teachers. He pointed out that the representative of the UN secretary general, Lakhdar Brahimi, is exerting efforts to release them along with a Sudanese hospital attendant.

For his part, Yasin Ghannawi, representative of the WHO in Yemen said that Yemen needs approximately $60 million to rebuild its damaged health establishments, including five hospitals.

He also said that the immunization process for children has stopped as a result of the heat and the medicine shortage, pointing out that some epidemics like cholera and diarrhea are spreading.

Salih, Butrus-Ghali Discuss Cease-Fire, Aden Water

JN0307054394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] A telephone contact took place yesterday between brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

During the conversation, President Salih and the UN secretary general reviewed the latest developments in our country in light of the UN Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931 and our country's commitment to these resolutions, as well as its many cease-fire initiatives and the continued violation of the Security Council resolutions by the rebels against legitimacy and their non-abidance, for eight times, by the cease-fire resolutions.

The brother president stressed the leadership's concern to respond to the two Security Council resolutions and its respect for international cease-fire appeals. However, the rebels are continuing their cease-fire violations and are carrying out ugly criminal actions against innocent citizens in Aden city, he said. President Salih also underlined the efforts currently being made by the leadership to repair water facilities that supply Aden residents with water in the Bi'r Nasir region. He explained that the rebels had destroyed the water facilities that supply Aden city with water before they abandoned the region with the aim of instigating public opinion to achieve political and propaganda purposes.

The brother president further noted that he had ordered a team of engineers and technicians to go to the Bir' Nasir region yesterday morning, along with a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, to repair these facilities and resupply Aden city with water. He pointed out that the leadership is extremely eager to alleviate the suffering of the citizens in Aden city, caused by the rebels, who are now practicing all kinds of oppression and torture against citizens in Aden. They are also forcing children, old people, and girls to fight with them or face death.

Salih Regrets 'Brothers' Interference in Affairs

JN0407075194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has stated that our country is ready to deal with UN Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931. He pointed out that the rebels, who have deviated from legitimacy, refused to implement these two resolutions because they want to internationalize the issue and call for the presence of international observers and forces in spite of the fact that we have announced a cease-fire more than once in response to the two resolutions. But each time the rebels violated the cease-fire and did not respond to the two resolutions. He said: We prefer that fighting will stop and that peaceful and political dialogue between the state and the rebels replace it.

This came in a television interview on the U.S. Cable News Network [CNN]. In reply to a question on foreign interference and the nature of this interference, the brother chairman said: It has been proven beyond any doubt that there is direct and indirect interference in Yemeni affairs, represented by political moves at the United Nations by the brothers in the neighbor states. We consider this as part of the interference in Yemeni affairs.

The brother chairman explained that Yemen is an independent and sovereign country, and has a political leadership and constitutional bodies which are responsible for representing Yemen in and outside Yemen.

He added: We were hoping that no one would act on Yemen's behalf with respect to its fateful issues either on the regional or international level. We regret that this is done by some brothers who support the rebels financially and provide them with weapons, and who become involved in issues that are within the Yemeni people's prerogatives.

Asked about our Armed Forces' positions, the brother Presidential Council chairman and Armed Forces supreme commander announced that our Armed forces are now present in Madinat al-Sha'b, Dar Sa'd, al-Shaykh 'Uthman, and along the road between Little Aden and Greater Aden, and in the eastern part in front of (al-Mindarah), (al-Kayyush), Bi'r Nasir, and Bi'r al-Munasarah, and al-'Imad. Thus, the forces of legitimacy are present in more than 55 percent of Aden, and that there still remains (Krayshar), al-Mu'allah, and (al-Tawahi).

Concerning the oil companies operating in the Republic of Yemen and reports that companies such as the (Ox) company, operating in al-Masinah, have refrained from disbursing the oil revenues, whether to the government or the rebels, the brother chairman said that the companies operating in our country are committed to disburse the oil revenues to the Government of the Republic of Yemen, particulary since all the agreements concluded before unity had all become the responsibility of the Republic of Yemen. He explained that all the agreements and conventions, at whatever level, are now within the prerogatives of the Republic of Yemen. He added that any delay in paying the oil revenues will not be a cordial action and, with regard to this issue, we are governed by agreements and laws.

Asked how the brother chairman views Yemen's future, the brother chairman said that, God willing, Yemen's future will be prosperous within the framework of unity, democracy, party pluralism, a free economy, and the modernization of the administrative apparatus following the stagnation that occured during this period as a result of the chaos and conduct of the rebels in the Yemeni Socialist Party command.

Al-'Attar Receives U.S. Ambassador, UN Official

JN0307173694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar today received Arthur Hughes, the U.S. ambassador to our country. They discussed a number of issues related to current conditions and bilateral ties.

Today, Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar also received Dr. 'Awni al-'Ani, the UN envoy resident in Sanaa. They discussed priority issues related to helping those harmed by the emergency conditions and ways to deliver aid, relief supplies, and services to all citizens in all parts of the Republic of Yemen in a response to the UN secretary general's appeals.

U.S. Reportedly Ends Opposition to Aden Recognition

JN0307144794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Report by Hisham Milhim in Washington]

[Text] Official U.S. and Yemeni sources have said the United States has lodged another protest with the Yemeni Government against what Washington considers cease-fire violations by northern forces, especially in the vicinity of Aden.

The sources said that at a State Department meeting between Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Irayni, Yemeni minister of development, in which the latest protest was conveyed, a change took place in the U.S. position on the Yemeni war, for the first time.

In a clear warning, Pelletreau told al-Irayni that Washington has stopped its continuous efforts, that began in the first days of the war, to convince Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states not to recognize the Democratic Republic of Yemen, proclaimed in the south.

Washington previously argued that recognition is like the war, and the decision to secede will further complicate the situation and present additional obstacles to a peaceful settlement of the conflict. [sentence as heard]

U.S. sources said that in spite of the military superiority of the northern forces, their control of most of Aden Governorate, and their continued siege of the city, it is a mistake to think that the recognition card is not still in the hands of Aden or its supporters in the Gulf region.

Although the official U.S. sources emphasized that Washington's basic position is still the same, which is opposed to force to maintain unity and opposed to the decision to secede because it further complicated the situation, and is calling for immediate resumption of dialogue, the sources added that if Saudi Arabia and Gulf states decide to recognize a separate entity in the south Washington will not oppose or obstruct such a step.

The sources added the U.S. Administration will in such case say that as a result of the continuation of the Aden siege, the cease- fire violations, and the suffering of the besieged city, Washington understands the recognition decision.

At his meeting with Pelletreau, Dr. al-Iryani, who represents Sanaa at the Security Council deliberations, accused some Arab Gulf states countries of financing a MiG-29 warplanes deal, probably from Ukraine, that was recently received by the southern forces. He said these warplanes recently raided Ma'rib.

Al-Iryani also criticized the foreign forces that call for a cease-fire and stop short of proposing a political mechanism that guarantees, among other things, the noninterference of neighboring countries in the Yemeni internal affairs.

In another development, representative of Aden leadership Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas called on Arab countries to recognize the Democratic Republic of Yemen, proclaimed in the south.

U.S. sources said al-'Attas asked the U.S. officials to take measures to monitor the Yemeni Government actions, and to employ pressure on it to stop its repeated attacks against Aden.

Sources close to what is going on in the tripartite meetings between UN envoy Lakhar Brahimi, al-Irayni, and al-'Attas, that were resumed in New York on Friday afternoon after al-Iryani's return from Washington, said that there is an initial agreement that international observers be from Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, an Arab Maghreb state that has not been named yet, in addition to Mali and Indonesia.

Al-Iryani: 'New Secessionists' Control Aden

JN0107202094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1755 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development, in Washington by unidentified correspondent in the studio; date not given; from the weekly "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Iryani] A statement was read at a news conference at the United Nations that the resolution [No. 931] is accepted in principle, despite the fact that we have some remarks on some expressions that were based on inaccurate information. It is obvious that the resolution, in terms of principle, does not deviate much from Resolution 924. It, however, reiterates all objectives, stipulated by Resolution 924, despite the fact that this resolution notes that the northern forces are attacking Aden. This is inaccurate, because the rebels are the ones attacking Aden districts and forcing the northern forces to retaliate.

[Correspondent] Does this explain the continuation of the military operations and the failure to respond to cease-fire call?

[Al-Iryani] I reiterate what I have always said. The rebels have no interest in achieving a cease-fire and ending the citizens' suffering. They only have this inhumane conduct, through which they believe the international community will achieve their illegitimate objectives by violating international legitimacy's resolutions.

[Correspondent] What is your position vis-a-vis the international and regional stands on this resolution, particularly the Saudi stand which wanted the resolution to provide for dispatching international observers?

[Al-Iryani] First, the resolution does not stipulate the dispatching of international observers. The issue has been placed within a regional framework, not under the UN flag. The resolution does not stipulate the sending of an international peace force or hint at resorting to this in the future.

[Correspondent] What is your stand vis-a-vis the Saudi call for including in the resolution a call for sending international observers?

[Al-Iryani] I will respond to this. With regard to some regional countries' call for sending international observers under the UN flag, this is an attempt to entrench a divisionist line. These calls are not out of good intentions, but out of a desire to prolong the fighting and drag the Yemeni people and the one Yemeni homeland into divisions and fragmentation.

[Correspondent] The resolution does not call for sending international forces to supervise the cease-fire. Is this an appeasement or a respond to Sanaa's request? And was there a Saudi request to the United States that the draft resolution stipulate this?

[Al-Iryani] We should not go into these details. However, we highly appreciate the stands of the five permanent members, as well as the stand of Spain and Argentina.

[Correspondent] Talks began with the other Yemeni party regarding a mechanism to supervise the cease-fire. Would you brief us on these talks?

[Al-Iryani] I believe you can talk with Lakhdar Brahimi. We agreed that none of us should answer such questions.

[Correspondent] How does Sanaa view the nature, task, and formation of this mechanism?

[Al-Iryani] Brother Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, will announce this mechanism whenever a final agreement is reached in this regard.

[Correspondent] We noticed that the cease-fire agreement signed in Moscow was not respected. What about this agreement?

[Al-Iryani] This agreement was signed by the foreign minister and [southern official] Salim Salih and was sponsored by Russia. However, it was, again, not honored by the rebels, because what the rebels, or the so-called southern leaders, do outside the country is not accepted inside. The leadership in Aden is not in their hands, it is in the hands of the new secessionists who are now controlling the [Yemeni] Socialist Party. Therefore, it is very regrettable to see that a cease-fire which is sponsored by a superpower like Russia is not respected and the fighting continues. The representative of the Red Cross was forced to return from Dar Sa'd because of the firing of katyushas rockets. He was unable to go to Aden. This is the fourth time we have tried to get him into Aden, at the request of his colleagues there. Those rebels' only purpose is to continue the fighting.

[Correspondent] Dr. al-Iryani: Is there still a red line, as you said previously, regarding the government forces' entry into Aden?

[Al-Iryani] We did not draw a red line.

[Correspondent] The red line might be drawn by international quarters, such as the Security Council or the United States?

[Al-Iryani] The Security Council shares our concern for the security and safety of all citizens in Aden. We highly appreciate this, but the rebels use those innocent people to achieve illegitimate objectives through inhumane methods.

[Correspondent] This means that the government forces' entry into Aden by force is still valid.

[Al-Iryani] I am talking to you from Washington. I have no information on the latest military developments. You can call Sanaa.

[Correspondent] My last question is about the future, if the military escalation continues. Can we say that after discussing the mechanism to supervise a cease-fire the dialogue between the Yemeni brothers—northern and southern—will continue?

[Al-Iryani] The objective of entrenching the cease-fire is to pave the road for a quiet dialogue. If the other party does not want to comply with the cease-fire, it is obvious that it does not seek quiet dialogue.

[Correspondent] How do you see the future?

[Al-Iryani] The future will be one Yemen, one homeland, one Yemeni people. The dreams of divisionists and separatists have been disproved. However, they want the sons of the one homeland to suffer at their hands.

[Correspondent] Is Sanaa ready to hold a dialogue with the leaders who announced separation if they go back on this plan?

[Al-Iryani] The dialogue is within the framework of Resolutions 924 and 931. It is a dialogue within the framework of the Republic of Yemen. Therefore, what was announced has been disproved. The dialogue will be within the framework of the Republic of Yemen in accordance with two international resolutions which cannot be ignored.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani.

[Al-Iryani] Thank you.

'Legitimate' Forces Return Aden Radio To Air

JN0107172794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 1 Jul (INA)—The legitimate Yemeni authorities have re-operated the transmitting station of Aden radio in al-Hiswah region, having earlier captured it.

In a statement today, a Yemeni media source said the station, which had been destroyed by the secessionists before they fled the scene, started to broadcast its main programs on two frequencies. [INA does not provide specific frequencies] [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Ghani on Commitment to Moscow Cease-Fire

JN0207064794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Presidential Council member brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani yesterday received the Russian ambassador to our country. The Russian ambassador delivered to brother 'Abd-al-Ghani a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to brother Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the developments in our country, and issues of common interest to the two friendly countries.

In the message, the Russian leadership congratulates Yemen on the signature in Moscow of a cease-fire agreement. The message also underscores the eagerness of the Russian Federation to do all it can to render this agreement a success in order to lay the grounds for resolving all outstanding problems. It noted Russia's readiness to make effective contributions toward setting up a proper and practical mechanism for monitoring compliance with the cease-fire resolution in a manner that would promote security, stability, and peace in our country.

During the meeting, brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani said that the Republic of Yemen—leadership, government, and people—values the efforts and endeavors being made by the Russian Federation to establish a cease-fire and aid the efforts to achieve peace and stability in our country. He affirmed that the government of the Republic of Yemen and its Armed Forces are committed to the cease-fire agreement signed in Moscow. He also underscored the government's keenness to halt the bloodshed in Yemen. Furthermore, he underlined the government's concern to halt the continued waste of Yemeni potential and resources, which are currently being wasted in a war that has been forced on our people and homeland by the rebels. He strongly regretted the failure of the outlawed rebels to honor their commitments, as well as their constant violations of all cease-fires, the last of which was the cease-fire that went into effect at midnight on Thursday in implementation of the Moscow agreement, and in compliance with UN Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931.

'Abd-al-Ghani indicated that the rebels violated this cease-fire less than 20 minutes after it went into effect. For they continued their artillery and rocket attacks on our Armed Forces positions in the city of Aden and the Hadramaut axis. He reiterated that our country will remain anxious to comply with the two UN Security Council resolutions, regardless of the violations committed by the gang of rebels. It will also continue to respond favorably to all the efforts and good offices extended by brothers and friends to establish a cease-fire and resolve the Yemeni crisis through a peaceful dialogue in the context of national constants, chief among which are unity, democracy, and respect for constitutional legitimacy.

Basindwah Comments on Moscow Cease-Fire

PM0507155894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jul 94 p3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by Sami 'Amarah in Moscow "after the signing of the cease-fire agreement"]

[Text] On the credibility of the signing and the determination to observe the cease-fire, the Yemeni foreign minister said:

[Basindwah] Regarding what has been said about this cease-fire, let me emphasize that the forces of legitimacy and unity will abide by the cease-fire just as they did several times before. What is important is that others should abide by it. I do not believe that continuing the fighting in Yemen is in anyone's interest. It must be stopped to spare blood and protect property.

I am very hopeful that this agreement will be a good start on the road of preserving Yemen's unity and democracy in the Yemeni Republic.

['Amarah] What mechanism is considered by the three parties to be adequate for the implementation of the signed agreement?

[Basindwah] It is not just three parties, but rather people concerned about the current conflict in Yemen. The Russian role aimed at mending the rift and sparing blood and lives is, of course, appreciated by us. We appreciate the role played by Minister Andrey Kozyrev, but there are no parties to the agreement. They all come from the Yemeni Republic and the agreement calls for a cease-fire in the Yemeni Republic.

['Amarah] Who is in charge of observing the cease-fire and identifying the party which violates it?

[Basindwah] Talks are under way in New York now on the question of a mechanism for the supervision of the cease-fire. As you know, there is the Yemeni Joint Military Committee which includes representatives from Arab and non-Arab states. There is much hope that the committee will be enlarged to include representatives from other Arab states to be agreed upon. The latest Security Council resolution speaks of Arab supervision of the cease-fire, which means the Arab League or some Arab states, which means that it is to be done within a regional framework.

['Amarah] How do you view the Russian proposal for participation of a Russian military representative in the international commission that would observe developments in Yemen?

[Basindwah] The Russian side did not raise that matter with me. Of course, if there is a chance for representation of non-Arab parties then it would be preferable if the Russian friends could be represented if they wished to do that, but as far as I know, even the two states who were represented by their military attaches in Sanaa in the previous committee, namely the United States and Russia, do not wish to participate in such a committee. The inclination is that there should only be representatives from the Arab states.

['Amarah] It is a well-known fact that you are from Aden. How do you view the conditions in your city today, and what is your assessment of the destruction inflicted on it?

[Basindwah] You may or may not know that I have many relatives and friends in Aden. All the people of Aden are my people and all the people of Yemen are my people and my tribe, but the responsibility for the death and suffering in Aden falls on the rebels who refuse to surrender to the legitimate authority and to end their mutiny. They should have ended their mutiny when al-'Anad base fell but they insisted on continuing the fight and entrenched themselves behind innocent families in Aden.

The responsibility also falls on those who are trying to take cover behind innocent citizens in the city. They bear a major responsibility for the suffering of the poor ordinary citizens. They must either end their mutiny or leave the homeland.

['Amarah] Would that mean complete alienation of yesterday's firends and colleagues? Is there no more room for agreement to end the bloodshed?

[Basindwah] The unionist elements in the leadership and grass roots of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] still have our respect and appreciation and we invite them to take their places with us. We do not deny their rights at all but they have to state their position frankly and they should have the courage to declare where they stand regarding those who declared mutiny against the legitimate authority.

['Amarah] How can you call the others mutineers, having shaken the hand of their representative after the signing of the agreement?

[Basindwah] Salim Salih Muhammad has so far not said that he supports the secession and the so-called Democratic Republic of Yemen. That means that he is still committed to and supports Yemen's unity. In that context, I have no reservation whatsoever about shaking the hand of or meeting with brother Salim Salih Muhammad.

['Amarah] What about brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid?

[Basindwah] 'Ali Salim al-Bid is a different matter. He led the mutiny and announced the secession. I believe that his political life in Yemen is finished.

['Amarah] After all these bloody events, how do you view Yemen's future?

[Basindwah] I see a prosperous and promising future for Yemen. Of course, this crisis is bound to pass and we must overcome it. Soon reason will prevail and all the Yemenis will agree to work to build the homeland and rebuild what the war has destroyed. What has happened is regrettable but may God forgive those who caused it.

'Abd-al-Ghani Meets With UNSC Envoys

JN0307182694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Today, Presidential Council Member 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani received the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states—the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom. The Presidential Council member discussed with the ambassadors the latest developments in the Yemeni arena. He explained the political leadership's efforts to establish a cease-fire in response to UN Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931, which concern the situation in the Republic of Yemen. He stressed that our country is committed to implementing these resolutions, which the elements of apostasy and secession have violated, and continue to violate.

The Presidential Council member also discussed with their excellencies the ambassadors the political leadership's efforts and measures to alleviate the suffering of our sons and brothers in Aden Governorate and to repair the water wells, pumps, and storage tanks in the Bi'r Nasir area, which supplies Aden with water and which were destroyed by the forces of apostasy and secession when they retreated from the area.

He stressed that the mission of the International Red Cross mission will be facilitated, noting that these efforts are being shelled by the rebels. This has prevented repair operations. Despite this, he added, the repair efforts of Yemeni technicians continue to restore water supplies to Aden despite the threats facing them, particularly those resulting from the mines planted by the rebels around the wells to prevent their repair and increase the suffering of Aden citizens.

The Presidential Council member also told the ambassadors that our country is interested in their countries' monitoring the facts in our country, particularly those related to the cease-fire and the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

The ambassadors thanked the Presidential Council member for his clarifications.

Council Member Meets Egyptian, Saudi, Kuwaiti Envoys

JN0307185694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Today, Presidential Council Member Brother 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani received Ambassador Badr Hammam, the Egyptian assistant foreign minister. They discussed bilateral ties and means to improve them, particularly in the current circumstances facing our country, as well as the efforts exerted to establish a cease-fire.

The Presidential Council member underlined Egypt's pioneering role in the Arab world, particularly its support of Arab unity and Yemeni unity. Ambassador Badr Hammam voiced Egypt's concern and support for Yemeni unity and Egypt's eagerness to resolve differences through peaceful means. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Adil Subhi, the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

The Presidential Council member also received Brother 'Ali Muhammad al-Qutaybi, Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Sanaa. They discussed ties between the two fraternal countries and means to strengthen them.

The Presidential Council member noted the conspiracies that are being hatched to fragment the Arab countries, noting that these conspiracies take advantage of certain domestic differences to deepen disunity among the sons of the one homeland. He stressed the need to deny the enemies this opportunity by resolving differences, strengthening the ties of amity, and removing all causes for estrangement. He said Muslims can resolve all their differences by resorting to the laws of God without allowing others to intervene in their internal affairs.

The Presidential Council member also received Mansur 'Abdallah al-'Awadi, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Sanaa. They discussed relations between the two sisterly countries.

The Presidential Council member voiced our country's appreciation of Kuwait's support of the development projects in Yemen since the triumph of the Yemeni revolution. He noted the need to remove the negative aspects that stained relations because of the Gulf war, since the conspiracy today targets the entire Arab nation. He said: If the Europeans are today seeking unity, then we should be more concerned about, and are in a dire need of, such unity.

For his part, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires said he hopes the Yemeni crisis will end as soon as possible, stressing that unity will be to the advantage of everybody. He said he is optimistic that things will return to normal and that the future is promising.

Egyptian Envoy Leaves Sanaa, 'Satisfied' With Visit

JN0407090394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Brother Ambassador Badr Hammam, Egyptian assistant foreign minister and President Husni Mubarak's envoy, left Sanaa this morning following a working visit to our country that lasted several days.

During his visit, Ambassador Hammam held several meetings with the brothers in the political leadership and senior state officials.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the Egyptian envoy said he was satisfied with the results of his visit to our country. He said he had the honor of meeting the brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, who gave him a reply message to his brother, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The Egyptian envoy also held talks with senior state officials on the possibility of ending the Yemeni crisis by peaceful means and finding an appropriate mechanism that spares the Yemeni people further human and material losses.

The Egyptian envoy said he met in Sanaa with several senior officials and political and social personalities in his efforts to [words indistinct] maintain and safeguard Yemeni unity and establish security, peace, and stability in Yemen.

He pointed out that the meetings will continue in the interest of Yemen and Egypt. He asserted that the relationship between the Yemeni and Egyptian peoples allows for further progress and creates larger prospects for progress in the relations between the two peoples in all fields.

The Egyptian envoy was seen off by brother Ahmad Dayfallah al-'Uzayz, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; a representative from the Presidential Council Protocol Office; Ambassador 'Adil Sidqi, Egyptian charge d'affaires in our country, and the Embassy staff.

House Briefed on Delegation's Visit to Syria, Lebanon

JN0407131594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Excerpt] The House of Representatives held its ordinary session today under House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar.

The House heard a report presented by Sultan Sa'id (?al-Barakini), head of the parliamentary delegation the House of Representatives sent to the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Lebanon to brief the parliamentary leaderships and officials in these two fraternal countries on the true situation in our country. The report said that during its parliamentary tour, the delegation focused on three issues:

1. The external conspiracy and the igniting of war in order to fragment Yemen's unity and to flagrantly interfere in the internal affairs of the Republic of Yemen, as well the persistent efforts to internationalize the Yemeni unity, and the attempts to distort unity by some foreign news media.

2. The issue of supplying financial and military aid to the secessionist gang.

3. The issue of encouraging rebellion against the constitutional legitimacy with an emphasis on the fact that what is taking place in the Yemeni arena is not a civil war. Neither is it a war between the north and the south, but a war between all the Yemeni people and a clique rebelling against the legitimacy.

The report noted that the results of the parliamentary delegation's visit to Syria and Lebanon were good and fruitful.

The report said that Syrian People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah thanked the Yemeni House of Representatives for briefing the Syrian People's Assembly on the true situation in Yemen. He stressed Syria's firm support—by its government and people—for Yemeni unity and for safeguarding it, especially since it represents the hope of all advocates of Arab unity. He also stressed an unequivocal rejection of undermining or renouncing this unity, and of bringing Yemen back to the pre-22 May 1990 era. He said they consider any attempt to dismember Yemen as an act of treason. [passage omitted]

Sources: Syrian, Bulgarian Pilots Recruited for South

JN0407140594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 4 Jul (INA)—Informed sources in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, have revealed that the Al Sa'ud and al-Sabah regimes have recruited a number of foreign pilots to fight among the ranks of the rebels against the legitimate government.

These sources told an INA correspondent in Sanaa that the sophisticated MiG-21 and MiG-29 aircraft that recently raided the pumping station in Safir in the Ma'rib Governorate, 200 km east of Sanaa, were piloted by Syrian and Bulgarian pilots who were recruited to fight for the secessionists in coordination with the aforementioned regimes.

It is worth mentioning that this raid has set the pumping station ablaze and wounded 11 of its technicians.

In another development, a Yemeni paper has said that the above-mentioned regimes have supplied the rebels with a large number of self-propelled artillery pieces and a number of Bulgarian-made surface-to-surface missiles.

In tomorrow's issue, the newspaper AL-JAMAHIR, organ of the Yemeni Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said that these two agent regimes are currently searching for mercenary pilots to participate in the war on the side of the secessionists in an attempt to boost their collapsing morale.

In a press statement he recently made in Sanaa, Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih announced that the rebels have received huge quantities of military equipment, including sophisticated planes and self-propelled artillery, whose cost was paid by a number of neighboring states, in a clear reference to the Saudi and Kuwaiti regime.

YSP Leader Appeals for International Aid for South

LD0307192294 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Excerpt] 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], appealed to the international community to start helping the south and to recognize the Democratic Republic of Yemen declared in Aden before being invaded by the northern Yemeni forces.

This appeal came at a time when the northern forces have launched a new rocket attack on Aden that resulted in the death of at least 17 people, including 9 people trying to dig a well to obtain water that has not been available in Aden since the destruction of the water pumping station that provided the city with water.

The International Red Cross Organization renewed its warning today of the possibility of a health disaster if water was prevented from reaching Aden.

The representative of the World Health Organization has reported numerous cholera cases in the areas where fighting prevailed in Aden suburbs. [passage omitted]

Southern Council Asks For International Support

NC0107193094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—The Presidential Council in Aden has stated that the people of South Yemen will not kneel and their morale will not be broken by North Yemen's escalated shelling of the residential areas and citizens in Aden.

In a statement issued today, which MENA received by fax, the Council asked the international community to stand alongside South Yemen and take the northerners to account.

The statement said that the "Sanaa regime" is violating all the basic values and norms on all battle fronts. The regime in the north rejects all international resolutions and Arab and Islamic calls. It claims agreement with Security Council Resolution 924 stipulating a cease-fire, but at the same time it orders its troops to destroy vital installations and houses under the pretext that it is for the sake of unity, according to what the statement said.

Southern Council Member Expects UN Protection

AU0407150494 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 4 Jul 94 pp 112-113

[Unattributed interview with 'Abd-al-Kawwi Makkawi, "one of the five members of the Presidential Council; place and date not given: "Like His Model Saddam"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Aden has been surrounded by North Yemeni forces for weeks, the besiegers are said to have recruited another 6,000 fighters from Sudan as reinforcement. Is the political leadership of the South preparing for an early exodus to a neighboring Arabic country?

[Makkawi] We will not leave the country but continue our struggle. Aden will never fall.

[DER SPIEGEL] Drinking water and food have become scarce, cholera has broken out, the last link with the outside world is the harbor. On what is your will to hold out based?

[Makkawi] Missiles kill hundreds of civilians in densely populated neighborhoods. Yet, morale is much better than the barbaric clans leaders in North Yemen imagined. They thought that they could take our modern, cheerful Aden without resistance.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does the signing of a cease-fire agreement in Moscow, which was immediately violated, anyway, signal the restoration of the traditional South Yemeni-Russian friendship?

[Makkawi] There are not any Marxist governments any more in Moscow and Aden. The Russians know Yemen will, North and South alike. Yet, not only the Russians, but even the Americans are making efforts to end the hostilities. If the cruel actions by the North Yemeni soldiery continue, even the United Nations will intervene.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you expect UN soldiers to be sent in, even though the secession of the South has not yet been officially recognized by a single country?

[Makkawi] At the very least, I expect UN protection for the actions by our friends. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of North Yemen ....

[DER SPIEGEL, interrupting] .... and still head of state of united Yemen....

[Makkawi, interrupting] .... behaves exactly like his model Saddam Husayn: When the Iraqi dictator overran Kuwait, the United Nations sent in half a million soldiers to free Kuwait; 15,000 men would be enough for South Yemen.

[DER SPIEGEL] Four years ago, South Yemen voluntarily united with the north into the Yemen Republic. Salih is fighting you as an unlawful separatist.

[Makkawi] All Yemenis want unity. Yet, the north has only been interested in our oil. The provincial governors in the south came from the north, we became second-class citizens. When missiles are necessary to preserve a fictitious craziness, then it is better to put an end to it.

YSP Official Views Moscow Agreement, U.S. Policy

JN0107195494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, in Moscow, by Salim Badawi in the studio; date not given; from the weekly "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Muhammad] We absolutely welcome the new UN resolution. Our representative, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who is now in New York, has fully supported this resolution which we hope will be implemented immediately by halting the fighting and checking the bloodletting in Yemen.

[Badawi] What about the regional and international stands that accompanied this resolution. Do you have any observations to make on these stands, particularly the U.S. stand?

[Muhammad] Of course, we deem the U.S. position an active one that seeks peaceful solutions and a way out of this fighting in Yemen. The United States has been working, since the crisis erupted, to make the peaceful option triumph and avoid the military option. However, with extreme regret, the other party has chosen the path of war. The results of this path are well known and are destructive by all standards.

[Badawi] However, the Americans were careful not to have the international resolution stipulate the dispatch of international observers, for example, to Yemen, so what do you think?

[Muhammad] Until the two parties abide by the cease-fire and prepare for the next stage, we prefer the dispatch of international observers. However, this question will be discussed today between our representative, Prime Minister haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, and their representative, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, in the presence of Lakhdar Brahimi, the representative of the UN secretary general. This mechanism in all its aspects and details will be discussed.

[Badawi] Regarding this mechanism to monitor the cease-fire, how do you, in Aden, view it?

[Muhammad] We believe that the other party would not implement the cease-fire without international monitoring. It can also be regional, or through the Security Council or the Arab League. Therefore, we have been eager to see those observers deployed, whether they are from brotherly Arab states or Islamic and friendly nations.

[Badawi] Salim Salih Muhammad, do you in Aden have reservations about the participation of countries or regional parties in a mechanism for monitoring the cease-fire?

[Muhammad] We have a just cause and therefore we are asking for the help of all parties. We extend our hand to everybody and we are not seeking to antagonize anybody. However, certain parties have entered the war and the crisis and their positions have been clear since the outbreak of the war. This can be seen in their statements or their practical positions against us. Through you, we ask those parties to stop interfering in Yemen's affairs and to mind their own business, instead of interfering in the affairs of others, and to maintain security and stability in the region because it seems that, with extreme regret, they have not learned the lesson of the Gulf war. We mean Iraq and Sudan.

[Badawi] Regarding the cease-fire agreement you signed in Moscow, is it a development, or a practical translation, or a complement to the Security Council Resolution 931?

[Muhammad] A part of the interest of a Security Council member state. [sentence as heard] We found that they have an initiative and we always welcome any initiatives by our brothers or friends. We responded to this initiative, especially toward three main points related to halting the fighting, in addition to our support for what will be agreed on concerning a mechanism to monitor the cease-fire. There is also a humanitarian question that requires the understanding of the Arab and world public opinion and the human conscience. This question has to do with the situation of 600,000 people in Aden who are currently without water, medical and food supplies, and electricity. They are thirsty and hungry. They are also living under daily bombardment.

[Badawi] But why Russia?

[Muhammad] They proposed this initiative. For our part, we welcomed the initiative, since Russia is a Security Council member state and since its initiative is in line with the Security Council initiative and stands.

[Badawi] What are the chances that this agreement will succeed?

[Muhammad] We hope that the other party will abide by the agreement and respect those initiatives. If they do not respect them, then we will win the sympathy and support of the nations at the Security Council and other states.

[Badawi] But how do you explain the cease-fire agreement in Moscow while military operations and pressure are continuing against Aden on the ground in Yemen?

[Muhammad] As we have said, this initiative is within the context of the Security Council resolutions and is coordinated with the member states and the brotherly and friendly countries.

[Badawi] Regarding the joint Moscow and New York meetings, can we take them to be the beginning of dialogue? What is the future of political dialogue between the various Yemeni parties?

[Muhammad] We have always been for dialogue, and dialogue alone. Therefore, since the political crisis erupted in Yemen, we have tried to resolve the dispute through dialogue. However, Sanaa declared war, which is now entering its third month. We believe that no matter how long this war will drag on, there is no alternative to dialogue to resolve any disputes or problems. Thank you.

Discusses U.S., Foreign Roles

NC0507090894 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 4 Jul 94 pp 30-35

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, by Hasan Sabra in Beirut on 25 June]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Sabra] Who has an interest in a prolonged war in Yemen?

[Muhammad] Two parties: A domestic group and some foreign forces who have started to intervene tangibly to disturb the region's security and stability and continue the scenario of the Gulf war—but in a different way—in Yemen and the south of the Arabian peninsula.

[Sabra] Is this talk directed at the United States or Iraq?

[Muhammad] Iraq and its Arab allies are now a party to the conflict. This is clear from their positions in the Arab League Council and the Security Council and from statements issued in Baghdad or other Arab countries. The involvement is also evident in supplies [to northerners], which were stored in Sudan and Yemen. Iraq is now clearly in the battle, providing the northern Army and tribes with weapons.

[Sabra] Do you have documents or evidence to prove this?

[Muhammad] These were announced at the time. Iraqi experts are leading the battles both in the operations room and the air force. This is in addition to what I have said; Baghdad is officially declaring its support for the regime in Sanaa in its war against us.

[Sabra] You have repeatedly likened 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Saddam. Is this a call for the Americans to deal with Salih as they did with Saddam?

[Muhammad] The issue is not personal.

[Sabra] I mean politically.

[Muhammad] The analogy is not meant to instigate one against the other. I do not think the Americans are instigating in this way. And we are not instigating the public in this way either. The similarity stems from the military and dictatorial mentality that, for example, replaces dialogue with war, construction with destruction, and imposes destructive policies when there is a big chance for other options. The similarity is in the mentality. And of course we know the difference lies between Saddam and Iraq's powers and capabilities and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his known capabilities and situation.

[Sabra] Can the Americans stop the war in Yemen?

[Muhammad] Yes. They have the ability.

[Sabra] Why do they not want to stop it?

[Muhammad] I am one of those who is really surprised that the Americans are not intervening at the right time to stop the war. Is there an anti-Yemen scenario? This is a question posed to the U.S. Administration.

[Sabra] How do you envision an American intervention?

[Muhammad] The Americans have various powers to influence the situation and impose their opinion if they want. I am not talking about the military aspect now, but about political and economic pressure. I know the Americans have a lobby on Yemeni affairs and considerable interests in Yemen. Through these they can influence the situation and make the necessary decisions.

[Sabra] Do you expect indirect intervention, through others, for example?

[Muhammad] If the Americans want to influence things they can play a major role. If the Yemeni issue is a priority for them they have the means and methods to end the war and force the two sides to negotiate and get the country out of this ordeal. But if there is another opinion, with a particular scenario prepared for Yemen, then I believe things will drag on. We only hear appeals, warnings, and similar things, but we see nothing practical in this regard. [passage omitted]

[Sabra] 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], was in Washington. After his meeting with Gore, it was said that an agreement was reached between you and the Americans on the scenario that would occur in Yemen. Al-Bid retired [to Aden] in August 1993 after his return from the United States. Things escalated. Did the Americans involve you in the mire?

[Muhammad] When he was in the United States, 'Ali Salim al-Bid revealed the contents of his meeting with the U.S. vice president. There was no such scenario or agreement. This was a domestic Yemeni crisis, which I sum up as follows: All that we offered—those of us who went from Aden to Sanaa—was very regrettably met by intransigence, rejection, and obstinacy. The issue even reached the extent of physical, moral, and political liquidation and even economic liquidation of establishments in the south. All this brought things to a dead end. There was a need to treat the issue of unity. There was a need to emerge from this tunnel we entered and consequently to lay down the correct bases for the issue of unity. We knocked on the door of dialogue, opened it, and reached the agreement incorporated in the document of pledge and accord. This document was a program for the situation that could emerge in Yemen and that could serve its stability and development. But, as I pointed out, this document or accord was torn apart by the option of war. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar declared that this agreement was no longer binding or operational. This was one of their conditions for stopping the war.

[Sabra] Do you believe that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih wants to conquer Aden, al-Mukalla, and Hadhramaut and to fully control all Yemen? Is this part of the political plan of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih?

[Muhammad] All his actions indicate that he wants to implement this plan.

[Sabra] Without regard for Arab, regional, and international considerations?

[Muhammad] As I said, in the beginning he believed that the war would last from three days to one week. The war has now entered its third month. The road to al-Mukalla and Hadhramaut is not strewn with roses. There is resistance. The resistance has begun to organize itself. New weapons have begun to arrive and to be used.

[Sabra] Who supplies these weapons and to whom?

[Muhammad] From the market. He who has the money can buy such weapons. [passage omitted]

[Sabra] Let us go back to the international situation. Have you despaired of U.S. moves and have the Americans drawn up this scenario on the bases of their personal interests, given that they are the sole masters of the new world order? Is there a chance you will approach your former friend the Soviet Union, currently Russia, for example?

[Muhammad] There are no friends, dear sir. Interests are the basis. The ideological system known before has ended. The same applies to the situation in Yemen. The YSP no longer believes in socialism. It has its national and democratic ideas. It has its ideas about building a national state with the means available. There is only this option left. Russia is no longer the former Russia. We cannot ignore Russia's strength and presence, despite its problems. It is a member of the Security Council and wields some influence. But any relationship with Russia is similar to the relationship with the United States. It is based on mutual interests. They view the subject from the angle of their interests. Reminiscences are a very emotional topic. Poetry can be written about the past, nothing else. [passage omitted]

Moscow Agreement Seen As Way Around UN Resolution

LD0407151294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1333 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 4 Jul (KUNA)—A prominent south Yemeni official stressed here today the need for the international community to take firm steps to bring about a cease-fire in his country. He said present efforts are not enough in view of the exacerbating human conditions in the southern part of Yemen.

In a statement to KUNA, Dr. Yasin Nu'man, secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee and member of the Political Bureau, pointed out that Aden now faces the threat of massive deaths due to the lack of drinking water and the persistent shelling of civilians by Sana'a's forces.

Dr. Nu'man, who is currently on a visit to the United Arab Emirates, added that the [UN] Security Council is still trying to find the appropriate mechanism for supervising the cease-fire and to monitor breaches of it. He said: The northern forces are now besieging Aden. Therefore, it would not be logical to say that the southern forces are the aggressors or that they are breaching the cease-fire.

Dr. Nu'man, who was prime minister of South Yemen before the union [of North and South Yemen in 1990], stressed that the international stand regarding the Yemeni crisis, represented in UN Security Council Resolution 931 which calls for cease-fire in Yemen, and the demand of the international community for ending the siege and the shelling of Aden, has not discouraged [North Yemen] President 'Ali Abdallah Salih from persistent attacks on civilians and the people's resources.

He said that San'a's forces do not want to cease fire, and pointed out that the recent agreement signed in Moscow is a part of its attempts to get around UN Security Council Resolution 931. An agreement between representatives from north and south Yemen was reached in Moscow last week but it collapsed just like all similar agreements reached between the two warring sides have collapsed since fighting broke out between them last May.

The south Yemeni official said he believes that a miracle is needed to implement the cease-fire in his country. He pointed out that the main aspect of such a miracle is [the need] for "the Sana'a regime to understand that the only way to escape from this disaster is to accept the UN Security Council resolution."

Regarding his views on the reasons for the failure of the UN Security Council efforts to introduce a suitable mechanism to monitor the cease-fire, the official said he regrets the fact that one of the reasons was the United States' refusal to send a monitoring force to Yemen because of the huge costs of setting up of such a force, according to the argument put forward by Washington.

Commenting on the recent statement by Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani that the northern forces will not enter Aden and that they only want to capture Aden airport, Yasin Nu'man said: "It seems that al-Iryani wants to deceive the Americans with these claims". He added: "How could the northern forces reach Aden airport, which is in the center of Aden, without entering Aden?"

In reply to another question, Dr. Nu'man said that he is very optimistic that the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member states, which is due to be held in Kuwait tomorrow, could come up with results which would help to end the Yemeni tragedy and stop the war in his country.

He touched on the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] stand on the exploding crisis in Yemen by saying: "I have felt that the stands of most brothers in the GCC countries during my meetings with them were not stands of sympathy as much as they reflected a conception and a strategy which is aware of the dangerous repercussions on regional and national security which could follow from the continuation of such a war in the Arabian peninsula." [passage omitted]

Southern Official Urges UN, U.S., To Interfere

NC0407195694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, head of the government declared in south Yemen, has urged the UN Security Council, the U.S. Administration, and the area's states to adopt deterrent measures against Sanaa and force it to observe a serious and immediate cease-fire between the two parts of Yemen.

Al-'Attas, who is currently in the United States, said in a statement faxed to MENA from Aden, that the failure of the Sanaa regime to abide by the Security Council resolutions, its violation of more than eight cease-fire agreements, and its insistence on killing the citizens by denying them drinking water, make the Security Council resolutions, the U.S. Administration's warnings, and the appeals of the area's states a waste of time.

Al-'Attas said that even his stay at the United Nations will be worthless unless a team of observers arrives at the battlefields as soon as possible.

In his statement, al-'Attas said that his meetings with UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, which were also attended by North Yemeni envoy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, have made progress in expediting the start of the task of the supervision and monitoring team in Yemen. However, he voiced his concern over the bombardment of the residential areas in the south which had so far left a large number of women, children, and elderly dead or wounded.

South Yemen Reportedly Bans Alcoholic Drinks

JN0507081894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] The Presidential Council in the self-declared Democratic Republic of Yemen has decided to ban the sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks in all the state's governorates, and to close shops that sell alcoholic drinks.

Informed sources say this decision seeks to placate the conservative Arab Gulf countries which ban alcoholic drinks in accordancce with Islamic law, and comes in response to the propaganda by the northern government, which describes the southerners as infidels who consume alcoholic drinks.

UN Special Commission Chief Ekeus Arrives for Talks

JN0407103594 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMt 4 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 4, INA—Mr. Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Committee today arrived in Baghdad leading a delegation on a few days visit and [for] talks with Iraqi officials.

Mr. Ekeus told INA he would hold talks with Iraqi officials in the technical and political fields and that he would submit a report to the Security Council on results of his talks in Baghdad on his return to New York.

This evening, formal talks will start at the Foreign Ministry between Iraq and the UN Special Committee.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN0407200094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA)—UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus held technical talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today.

Rolf Ekeus arrived in Baghdad today at the head of a technical delegation on a visit to Iraq.

Opposition Reports Attempt To Kill 'Udayy Husayn

LD0107142694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Vienna, 1 Jul—Iraqi opposition sources inside Iraq have revealed that there had been an attempt to assassinate 'Udayy, son of Saddam Husayn, the head of the Iraqi regime, during an attack carried out by a group of the opposition's combatants.

In a statement issued today, the office of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], Vienna branch, quoted the opposition sources as saying that the combatants who were equipped with the latest weapons and new cars, had laid an ambush for 'Udayy Saddam Husayn and his aides while they were coming out of the Jadiriyah district in Baghdad and attacked them with automatic weapons and hand grenades.

In its statement, the SAIRI office added that the group had executed the operation with exceptional speed, and that they had withdrawn without losses, while two of 'Udayy's bodyguards were killed and a third was wounded and was being treated at Ibn-al-Bitar hospital in Baghdad.

It is worth mentioning that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn was exposed to numerous assassination attempts, among which was the attempt that targeted him when he was presiding over a meeting at the headquarters of the Iraqi Olympic committee a few months ago.

At another level, the statement mentioned that Iraqi resistance forces in the south have recently blown up Iraqi Army equipment depots near the city of 'Amarah.

It added that those depots contained different types of weapons used by the forces of the Iraqi Army in their attacks on the residential areas in the towns and villages of the marshes, south of Iraq.

The statement attributed to Iraqi opposition sources inside Iraq as saying "that the sounds of rocket explosions and other types of equipment were heard in the city of 'Amarah and the neighboring areas, and that columns of smoke were seen rising to the sky in the area where the explosion took place."

Three Detained Egyptians Reportedly Released

NC0407171394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, 4 Jul (MENA)—It was learned here today that the Iraqi security authorities have released three Egyptian citizens who were arrested in their houses in Baghdad last April. It was also learned that Ambassador Rida Nasr, head of the Egyptian interests mission in Baghdad, made intensive efforts and held contacts at the highest level with the Iraqi officials to secure the release of the three Egyptians.

The three Egyptians are: 'Izzat 'Abdallah al-Sayyid, manager of the office of the Egyptian Land Reclamation Company in Baghdad; Dr. Ashraf Ahmad Kamal, professor at the Medical School of the Iraqi al-Mustansiriyah University; and 'Atif Faraj, owner of a key cutting shop in Baghdad.

The Iraqi authorities gave the released Egyptian citizens a deadline to leave Baghdad.

Officials, Media React to 'Arafat Visit, Meeting

Rabin Adopts Hands-Off Approach

TA0207190494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Studio discussion between station announcer Hayim Yavin in Jerusalem and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in Tel Aviv—live]

[Excerpt] [Yavin] Tomorrow morning, a group of Labor Knesset members [MK's] will meet with Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza. The meeting, which was initiated by MK Yosi Katz, the deputy faction chairman, aims to display the Labor party's support for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. MK Katz said: These days, when the right wing is rampaging in the streets, the support of the silent majority needs to be demonstrated.

'Arafat's arrival in the self-rule areas marks the beginning of a full month of peace-related activity. At the end of last week, Saudi Arabia announced that it was joining the new regional economic body established by Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinians. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that the new body's first conference will take place in Cairo in a week.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik is in our Tel Aviv studio. Good evening, Gadi. I understand that our staff has asked for the prime minister's comment on 'Arafat's visit, but he was reluctant to take part in this festival. What is the government stand? I assume Rabin is following the visit. What is his stand, and what preparations are being made for next week's events?

[Sukenik] Regarding 'Arafat's arrival, Rabin is evidently following the details and reading the texts of the various speeches. Judging by his aides' remarks, he does not find 'Arafat's remarks to pose any particular problem, to constitute an affront to the Israelis, or to contain anything that is liable to inflame the right wing. Therefore, the message Rabin is communicating, so to speak, is that he is staying out of this festival, that this is the Palestinians' festival, that the main thing is that progress be made, and that his arrival is okay. If he decides to visit Jericho, undoubtedly he will be permitted to do so. [passage omitted]

Rabin on Visit; Funds To Go to Palestinians

TA0407065394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Excerpt] The Finance Ministry is keeping an accurate record of the funds that Israel needs to transfer to the Palestinians, and they will be passed on to the Palestinian Authority in the near future. This was stated by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat. The reference is to income taxes collected from territories' laborers in Israel and customs levied on goods reaching Gaza and Jericho from Jordan and Egypt. Our political correspondent Udi Segal has the details on this and Rabin's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Segal] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that 'Arafat can come to Gaza and Jericho whenever he deems it necessary. The prime minister does not understand the excitement about 'Arafat's coming to Gaza, saying this was expected according to the agreements. At the cabinet meeting yesterday, the Shin Bet head assessed that 'Arafat will return to the autonomy areas this coming weekend, following the meeting with Rabin and Peres in Paris. The prime minister told IDF Radio yesterday: 'Arafat will come and go, and this is none of our business.

[Rabin] It was clear in advance that the PLO leadership that will head the Palestinian Authority will be situated in Jericho primarily, or partly in Gaza, as they choose to have it—this leadership or components of it will definitely not be in Jerusalem—and so it is only natural that 'Arafat too will be there. This was clear in advance. How long he will remain there, and how he will divide his time between Tunis and Jericho and Gaza is his business.

[Segal] In the meantime, there is no talk of an 'Arafat visit to Jerusalem.

On another matter, it has been learned that Israel will soon return several million shekels to the Palestinian Authority. The reference is to 75 percent of the income tax collected from territories' laborers working inside Israel and the customs levied on goods reaching Gaza and Jericho from Egypt and Jordan. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told IDF Radio that Israel will return all the money to the very last cent, according to the agreement. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peres Welcomes Visit as 'Historic Event'

TA0107171194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has welcomed the arrival of Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza as a historic event for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. Speaking to reporters, Peres said that the visit marks the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and he wished the Palestinians success in their self-government. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] We were serious when we signed the Cairo agreement, Shim'on Peres said, and we appreciate the fact that it is now becoming a reality. He dismissed the right- wing charge that this is a day of humiliation for Israel. As the Palestinians are happy, Peres said, this does not make me sad.

[Peres] I think their success will be success for peace. I think there is still a great job lying ahead for them and for us to make it also an economic success, to make it a political responsibility. And, from the depth of my heart, I wish them well without any hesitation and without any qualifications.

[Katzenell] When was Israel humiliated? Peres asked. When the Likud dismantled the settlements in Sinai. We have not done this, he said.

But, Peres was asked: Was 'Arafat not likely to surprise Israel again and come to Jerusalem even without obtaining Israeli approval?

[Peres] There is no room for surprises. He has to coordinate, if he wants to come, the date and the time of his coming. And, until now, he didn't ask for any permission to come to Jerusalem. All this is a speculation in the press, very much encouraged by the opposition in Israel, because they were unable to gather a real demonstration against Gaza, so they are looking for an issue that does not exist.

[Katzenell] The right wing has an extreme voice, Peres said, but judging by today's turnout, not such a large audience. [passage omitted] [end recording]

HA'ARETZ Welcomes 'Arafat Arrival

TA0307193494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jul 94 p B1

[Editorial: "Speedy Timetable"]

[Text] Another stage of the autonomy implementation was completed in Gaza two days ago. Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Gaza, the inauguration of the Palestinian Authority slated for today, and the decision on an agenda for the future steps of the process are the practical execution of agreements signed in Washington on 13 September and later in Paris and Cairo. From now on, 'Arafat will be a leader on his own land, and all those fond of noting historical peace process landmarks, can definitely add 1 July to their list.

The disorder and the inept planning that accompanied the visit should not deflect us from the basics. From the two strips of land—Gaza and Jericho—in which autonomy began, it will expand to comprise all parts of the West Bank. The timetable 'Arafat outlined yesterday is speedy and crowded. He wants the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to withdraw from population centers—as defined in the autonomy agreement—by August, immediately after which preparations will be launched for elections, which 'Arafat would like to hold no later than October.

Precise timetables have not been one of the agreement's prominent qualities, but 'Arafat's remarks convey at least two messages to his Palestinian listeners. First, that the Gaza and Jericho residents' status would be quickly made equal to that of the population of the rest of the West Bank and that all of them would soon become subject to the autonomy rule. The other was a pledge to hold elections, which means a democratic procedure that will provide public support for any elected council and will possibly reduce or eliminate the appointment system, which elicited spates of criticism against 'Arafat.

What matters for Israel is the fact that from now on autonomy has a direct master who promises to live there. The autonomous area deserves to have a leader who learns of its urgent problems not by telephone or fax but through his own eyes and frequent personal visits and meetings with residents of the territories, and not only with representatives. If that happens, the frustrating dichotomy between the PLO territories and PLO abroad will gradually disappear, giving rise to a uniform leadership. We may also expect the geographic proximity to Israel to greatly ease the solution of matters of principle, which until now had to be discussed only in rare encounters in various cities around the globe.

'Arafat's arrival in the region wraps up another stage in the establishment of autonomy. The announcement that he will live here is not merely a move he was expected to make, it is a vital step for the continuation of the process. The completion of the Palestinian-Israeli facet of the peace process is the basis for progress on the Jordanian, and possibly also the Syrian, track. Jordan is still waiting to see how autonomy evolves, although it is at the same time anxious that its share—particularly in the field of economic agreements—will be inequitable. We can reasonably expect Jordan to become a central partner as autonomy gradually establishes itself on the ground.

The Israeli Government, which strives for peaceful relations with all Arab countries, should therefore adopt, together with 'Arafat, this speedy timetable for the completion of autonomy, in order to be able to proceed to the next stage. The expedited peace process will now force the government to make difficult decisions. The Jerusalem demonstrators, from the right wing and settlements, represent the most difficult of these decisions. If the government plans to pursue the peace process with the same determination, it should give the Jewish residents of the territories a public explanation of what their future is going to be: Will the next stage of autonomy guarantee their personal safety, and will there be no option other than to evacuate settlements? The government does not have to be impressed by rallies, but it does have to provide truthful answers.

Sharon Opposes 'Arafat Arrival

BR0107143894 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 1 Jul 94 p 13

[Interview with Former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon by Umberto De Giovannangeli; place and date not given: "He Should Have Been Brought to Jerusalem in Chains"—first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[Text] " 'Arafat is a war criminal, and I will do all I can to make his life impossible." So says Ariel Sharon, Israeli war hero, one of the best-loved and worst-hated politicians in Israel, Likud deputy, and undisputed leader of the Jewish Far Right, the part of Israel that opposes peace with "the PLO terrorists at all costs."

[De Giovannangeli] What does Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Gaza mean for you?

[Sharon] 'Arafat is a war criminal with a frightening number of Jewish victims on his conscience. Having a man like that as a neighbor strengthens my conviction that the seeds that will generate the next war in the Middle East were sown in Oslo, Washington, and Cairo.

[De Giovannangeli] Do you support the death threats or, at any rate, the calls for street revolts against 'Arafat's arrival just made by the leaders of the Far Right?

[Sharon] I am not concerned with discussing positions taken up by unrepresentative groups or individuals. I prefer to stand by what has long been the position of Israeli Governments, whether Likud- or Labor-led: This man should be allowed to come to Jerusalem, but in handcuffs. He should be brought before a military tribunal and tried for war crimes.

[De Giovannangeli] Mr. Sharon, do you not think that your position has been defeated by history and that head-on opposition to the peace process is now a relic of the past?

[Sharon] Let us get one thing straight from the outset: I am in favor of peace, as are all the inhabitants of this country. I want peace as only someone who has taken part in all Israel's wars, rising through the ranks from private to general, seeing friends die and twice being seriously wounded, can want it. I therefore think that I have a much better understanding of the deep meaning of peace than a lot of political wheeler-dealers who blather on about it from platforms.

[De Giovannangeli] How does what you are saying translate into actual reality?

[Sharon] Look, I remember as if it were yesterday what then U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney told me some years ago: When a state has to make decisions of vital importance, it does not matter what it says, what its intentions are, or what agreements it signs its name to. No, the important thing is to assess the other side's capabilities. What might happen in the event of an error in this assessment? What would happen in the event of a change in leadership in the country with which we are negotiating? No responsible state would give up its borders like our rulers are doing in exchange for words, mere words. You listen to me: I have been a member of the security cabinet, both as a military officer and as a minister, for over 15 years, and I have always tried, and failed, to convert the other members to my idea of exploiting the peace issue with deeds, not words: Any state with a true desire for peace, Israel included, must first stop its race to rearm. The same goes for terrorism, which has been the factor that has triggered all the wars fought by Israel, even before it was born. My proposal was that every state that desired peace should hunt down, dismember, halt, in a word, take action against the terrorist organizations present on its own territory. The PLO in Tunisia, Hizballah, and the other extremist group commandos in Syria and Lebanon. At the same time, the refugee problem was to be solved, as it would otherwise have constituted an insuperable obstacle to any agreement. Sadly, these proposals fell on deaf ears.

[De Giovannangeli] You have voiced harsh criticism of the Washington and Cairo agreements. But if Ariel Sharon were prime minister of Israel, how would he solve the "Palestinian question"?

[Sharon] By concluding those agreements, Rabin has committed an error that may prove fatal for us, not only a political and military error, but a moral error as well. I say this because he has accepted a war criminal of the first order like 'Arafat as his counterpart. Look, in spite of the atrocities that the Syrians and Egyptians as well have committed in the past against Israeli prisoners of war, I have not opposed, nor do I now oppose agreements with those states. And do you know why?

[De Giovannangeli] No, Mr. Sharon, I do not....

[Sharon, interrupting] Because, unlike the PLO, they do not have the destruction and supplantation of another state, our state, as their whole reason for existing. For all our grief for our soldiers who have died in the wars with the Arabs, we cannot put them on the same plane as the thousands of civilians, women and children included, murdered by the terrorist organization led by 'Arafat.

[De Giovannangeli] But Mr. Sharon, Israel, too, has killed thousands of Palestinian civilians, women and children included.

[Sharon] The difference is that we have been forced to take action against terrorists who hid behind the so-called "stone-throwing revolt." Unlike 'Arafat, we have never used terrorism as a political tool. Anyway, in concrete terms, what success has this agreement brought? Hardly a day goes by without a terrorist attack against Israeli civilians. I have been saying for years that there is one, and only one, approach to solving the Palestinian problem, by which I mean the Palestinian state that already exists, Jordan. What Rabin is doing by negotiating with 'Arafat is to create a second Palestinian state. As a matter of principle, I am not against concessions, but I would have granted them only to a proper state like Jordan, not to a terrorist group. I think it is too late, now, to move in this direction, but not to correct the points in the deal on Gaza and Jericho that would lead directly from autonomy to a Palestinian state, which would jeopardize the very existence of Israel.

[De Giovannangeli] There is talk of General Sharon as leader of a new party uniting the Jewish Far Right. Is it true?

[Sharon] By no means. I was the one who united five parties to form Likud back in 1973. I am still a member 21 years on, and I have no intention of decamping. What I have been proposing for some time is that the right-wing parties fight the next election as a single block within which each one would keep its own identity, holding primary elections to select a single candidate to run for the leadership of the future government.

[De Giovannangeli] Will you be one of the candidates in the "primaries"?

[Sharon] Definitely.

[De Giovannangeli] One last question, general. What is Ariel Sharon's ideal for Israel?

[Sharon] A Jewish, democratic state in which everyone can live according to a principle that I have inherited from my parents: All rights to this land are Jewish, and rights in this land are due to all those who live in it.

Leaders React to 'Arafat's Arrival Speech in Gaza

Peres Comments on Speech, Other Issues

TA0107160994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Karmit Gay and political correspondent Shlomo Raz; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Gay] Shalom, Minister Peres. What nuances did you perceive in Yasir 'Arafat's speech in Gaza today?

[Peres] The truth is that I did not hear the speech, just a synopsis. I suppose it was a festive speech befitting the circumstances. It was designed to show that he is adhering to the agreement on the one hand, and to communicate his vision to the Palestinians on the other. [passage omitted]

[Raz] If we understand 'Arafat's speech correctly, he touched on a number of points. For instance, one problem he is very distressed about is that of Palestinian prisoners who have not been released as yet.

[Peres] Yes, that is clear.

[Raz] He tells his audience that he will act for his brother, Ahmad Yasin—the reference here is obviously to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader....

[Peres, interrupting] Yes, he has repeatedly raised this issue in conversations with me as well.

[Gay] He said also that the delayed release was caused by his unwillingness to compromise on this matter.

[Raz] Since 'Arafat, the PLO, and the Palestinians are so aggravated by this problem, does Israel intend to do anything about it?

[Peres] Israel has said that if the man announces that he is abandoning violence, if he denounces violence, there would be no reason for us to put off his release.

[Gay] Has he refused to do it?

[Peres] Yes, he has.

[Raz] How do you understand his reference to Jerusalem, which each of us must have eagerly awaited?

[Peres] What did he say? Did he speak of the holy sites?

[Gay] First of all, he spelled out the names of the West Bank cities—Nabulus, Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, and so forth—and then he said that after Hebron, it will be the turn of Jerusalem. He said that they will come there to pray for martyrs' souls, whom they promised as much. He further said: We recognize the Jewish people's holy sites in the city, and we want the Jews to acknowledge our holy sites.

[Peres] We have never denied the sanctity of any religion's site.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, there is a theory that maintains that 'Arafat does not distinguish between the sanctity of holy sites and the political aspects of the Jerusalem issue. Do you think that is true?

[Peres] I do not think it is very important, because he can say anything he likes as long as he acts as agreed. Naturally enough, he made an attempt which was due to enthusiasm and was not at all surprising, in my opinion. Anyway, we cannot be the censors of his dreams. As long as his conduct is in accordance with the agreement—namely, that he denounces terror, prevents terror, dissociates from the Palestinian Covenant, abides by the rules of the game in Gaza and Jericho—it is all right.

[Gay] He has not dissociated himself from the Palestinian Covenant as yet.

[Peres] Yes he has, but the Palestine National Council [PNC] has not. The PLO leadership has publicly announced that it was disowning the Palestinian Covenant. What he pledged was to have the resolution passed by two-thirds of the PNC at the proper time. Since the PNC has not convened, we can hardly expect him to do it.

[Raz] He made another pronouncement which, I think, will rather please you. He said: We signed a peace agreement of the courageous, but much more should be done for that peace.

[Peres] Absolutely. He also said some work should be done on the ground, that ceremonies are not enough.

[Gay] And in addition, he mentioned the National Palestinian Authority has to build and invest a lot of work in, what will eventually lead to a Palestinian state. Is this one of his dreams?

[Peres] It definitely is. He has received no agreement concerning a Palestinian state, and he knows we reject the establishment of a separate Palestinian state. That is no secret to him. Look, we agreed on whatever we did, but there are many spheres in which we did not agree.

[Raz] What about the next stages of negotiations? A consultation on this matter was held here today.

[Peres] There are three or four more stages. If you have the time, I will detail them.

[Gay] Please, go ahead.

[Peres] One, we have to conclude the three or four issues which the Cairo agreement did not resolve: the size of the Jericho area; the stationing of a soldier on the bridge, or the crossing point; and the size of the Gaza shore area. As agreed, we will do it as soon as the Palestinian Authority is established. Two committees—on security and on civilian issues—will convene and do the work.

The next stage is the so-called early empowerment [preceding two words in English], namely, the transfer of powers in five spheres to the Palestinian self-rule. We promised to launch discussions on these matters as soon as the Oslo-Cairo agreement is completed, and that the work will be done in the Middle East—and we will do as promised. I believe the talks will be held in Cairo.

[Raz] When?

[Peres] On Wednesday [6 July], Mr. Rabin and myself will meet 'Arafat in Paris, and that is when we will discuss dates and venues.

The fourth thing to be done is to convene the four-way committee—Egypt, Jordan, us, and the Palestinians—to discuss the issue of displaced persons and other issues. We agreed that the committee should convene within one month, and that will be done.

The last thing to be done is to discuss the continuation of the implementation of autonomy in further areas. No date for that has been set, but it was supposed to be held in Washington. These are separate negotiations, and we will conduct them, too, as promised.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, 'Arafat's speech contains another element that is apparently linked to the future of the negotiations. He said they would keep the promise to the Palestinian nation—a statement which was interpreted to mean that he is aiming at a comprehensive, rather than a separate agreement. The allusion here is to Israel's negotiations with Syria.

[Peres] Look, first of all an agreement already exists, and if he wants to wait for the Syrians to join, that is okay, let him wait, but we would prefer to adhere to our commitments. At this point, there is an agreement between us and the Palestinians on the Gaza Strip and Jericho. This agreement has been implemented, it has become reality to the great joy of both sides, I think. We rejoiced at being able to leave Gaza, because our stay there was incomprehensible and unnecessary, and they are happy to be able to run their own lives. It was definitely favorable for both sides.

[Gay] What about Jericho? Any chance of his arriving there during this visit?

[Peres] Maybe. There are various speculations. If he wants to come, all that has to be done is arrange the security and passage matters, and then he can come.

[Raz] What about Jerusalem?

[Peres] He has not asked to come to Jerusalem. Look, I have read and heard people—mainly from the right wing—saying he had approached me and that I made promises. That's nonsense: He did not ask and he received no promises. In principle, there is no reason to prohibit his coming to pray, just like any other Muslim would. Yet contrary to many other Muslims, his visit entails a great deal of preparation and security measures. It is not a routine event.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, was anything lacking in 'Arafat's speech?

[Peres, laughing] Look, I am not his speech writer. Speeches come and go, and each speech is adapted to the conditions, circumstances, and the celebration for which it is composed. He was addressing his people. Listen, the speech was not written in Hebrew, and it was not aimed at the Israeli public. It was written in Arabic and addressed to the Palestinians. We always listen to him avidly, as if he were addressing us. He addresses his own people in his own style. He has his own links with his people. Anyway, we must remember that our cultures are different. Some things are nicer in theirs, some are nicer in ours, and there is no point in making him speak our language and imitate our style, and we will not speak his language or imitate his style either.

[Raz] What do you think of the initiative of several Labor Knesset members to go to Gaza to meet 'Arafat?

[Peres] Let them go, why not. Look, the world will be still there even after that. Believe me.

[Gay] Thank you, Minister Shim'on Peres.

Likud's Netanyahu Comments

TA0107160494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1444 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Gay Zohar and Mickie Haimovich in the studio and Aharon Barne'a in Gaza—live]

[Text] [Haimovich] In an interview here two days ago, you said you hoped the government would return to its senses and prevent the visit. We see that 'Arafat arrived after all.

[Netanyahu] We saw he is here, and we also heard him. Now you can understand what we are fighting about.

[Haimovich] What do you mean?

[Netanyahu] Was he speaking about Gaza or Jericho? He spoke about a state that will be set up within the boundaries of 1967. He spoke about Jerusalem and addressed the Israeli Arabs. In fact, when he spoke in Johannesburg he had believed he was speaking to a small forum, but even when he addresses PLO and international forums he speaks the truth. He said: Our intention is to establish an Arab country, in stages, in order to destroy the Jewish state in a jihad in stages. The countdown toward the attainment of this goal started today. We do not care about Gaza, we care about Jerusalem, we care about the State of Israel. The prime minister and this government allowed 'Arafat to come here, legitimizing his moves. There is no doubt in my mind that if it was not for our acts of protest, the massive turn up of our supporters, he would have reached Jerusalem during this visit. We prevented this at this time. Yet, this is the main struggle. I call on every Israeli citizen to join this struggle that should concern us all, regardless of their Labor or Likud affiliations. I call on everyone to come to Zion Square in Jerusalem tomorrow evening to stand up against the intention to redivide Jerusalem and organize a jihad against the state of Israel.

[Zohar] Could it be that by viewing this visit as another stage of the agreement that the opposition rejects—perhaps it is an unimportant stage—the demonstrations and mass rallies make the visit more important than it should be for the Israeli public?

[Netanyahu] Of course we can hide our head in the sand, think that it did not hurt, it is nothing, it is only Gaza, only Jericho—this false presentation of the facts. We know what the intention is. Such days are days of trial for the Israeli prime minister. Unfortunately he failed the test. On this day, Yitzhaq Rabin should have, first of all, clarified that 'Arafat will not be allowed in Jerusalem—not today, not tomorrow, not ever. Jerusalem is off limits for him. Second, I believe he should have called on the heads of the opposition today in an attempt to reach a basic national agreement on the following issues: A Palestinian state will not be established in Judaea and Samaria; there will be no withdrawal to the borders of 1967; the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]— and not the terrorists' army that we already see operating in Gaza—will be in control on the ground. Instead of doing all this, the prime minister causes a rift in the nation, besmirches the opposition, instigates against it. He should have called for unity, but the prime minister is not doing this. Had I been prime minister, this is what I would have done, and right now.

[Zohar] You spoke about what Yitzhaq Rabin did not do. At the same time, he claimed that the Likud is planning to take over the government office complex illegally. What do you say?

[Netanyahu] This is slander and a defamation that is unprecedented in the history of the Israeli democracy. I could understand such remarks if they regarded acts by individual extremists, to which we are all opposed. But besmirching us, making false accusations at half the nation—and, according to the polls, even more than half the nation opposes 'Arafat's arrival in Jerusalem and this entire political line—lying and saying that we plan to seize the government offices is very worrying because I believe this is a threat to democracy.

[Zohar] There is no such plan?

[Netanyahu] There is no such plan and there could never be one. We work within a legitimate, democratic framework of demonstrations and protests. This is what keeps a democracy going. What the prime minister did is reminiscent of anti-democratic, totalitarian regimes. When such regimes want to justify excessive acts by the police against demonstrators, they say that the opposition intends to seize the government offices. I have news for the prime minister: We intend to seize the government offices, but through elections—this is the only way governments are being replaced in this country. A prime minister who accuses the opposition, the Likud, half the nation of this plot, will eventually be overthrown in the coming elections.

[Barne'a] Mr. Netanyahu, I have been listening to 'Arafat's speeches and remarks, made both in public and behind closed doors for several years now, and I assume you do the same. Today, in what I believe was a politically moderate speech, he extended his hand in peace to the people of Israel. What needs to happen for you to believe this man?

[Netanyahu] I do not believe this man because he is a professional liar who lies left and right. Incidentally, I do not believe there is a single Arab leader who believes him. Do you believe this was a speech of reconciliation with the people of Israel? I would have expected an Arab leader to deliver a totally different speech. Nevertheless, today he clearly conveyed that he is not coming for Gaza and Jericho but, as I said before, he came to establish a state. Speaking in Johannesburg only a few weeks ago, he made it perfectly clear what this state intends to do—to conduct a jihad, to establish a Quraish-type peace with a foolish government that is willing to provide him with the jumping board to Jerusalem in the first stage, and to the rest of Palestine later. He addressed the Israeli Arabs. He sent Jibril Rujub to the Bedouin village of Rahat in the Negev, and you must have heard what he said there, what he intends to do. Palestine will now be established beyond the Green Line, he believes, and later it will expand beyond that line under the claim for the right of return, which he has not denounced yet, and will implement the Palestinian covenant, from which he has not disassociated himself. He keeps openly announcing his jihad intentions. He may have convinced you, but I am telling you—this is not a speech of reconciliation, and he is not a leader of reconciliation.

[Zohar] The acts of protest did not stop the process. Foreign Minister Peres is already speaking about the permanent stage. Is there anything that could stop the process?

[Netanyahu] Acts of protest are taking place around Israel at this time in almost every junction from Metulla to Elat. There will be a mass demonstration tomorrow night in Jerusalem, and it is important for everyone who understands what is happening, and I believe many do, rally there. I believe that the government's rush to hand this man and everything he represents the wall that protects Israel—the Judaea and Samaria mountains, the heart of the Jewish homeland—is something we must stop. This is not an autonomy. Autonomy does not mean that Jewish settlements will be restricted, that an Arab army will set up on the outskirts of Tel Aviv; it is something else. If the prime minister wants to forge a national consensus, as I urge him to do, he must return to the issues the Israeli public agrees on. He must stop this process, and replace it with another process of real peace and reconciliation; not fictitious or imaginary peace, but safe peace.

Minister Meets With 'Arafat; MP Meeting Cancelled

'High-Ranking' 'Arafat Meeting Sought

TA0107184594 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Report by Ya'aqov Eylon, special correspondent in Gaza]

[Text] We have just been apprised of several issues. First of all, there has been an Israeli initiative for an encounter with Yasir 'Arafat. Officials have been approached by Major General Dani Rothschild and Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, who requested a meeting between a high-ranking Israeli delegation and Yasir 'Arafat.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 1 July reports: "Israel has officially approached Yasir 'Arafat with a request to arrange a meeting between him and high-ranking Israeli elements in the course of his current visit. This was revealed a short while ago by Nabil Sha'th at a brief news conference he held in Gaza."]

We have further learned that a meeting of the Palestinian autonomy council, chaired by 'Arafat, is under way. Two of 'Arafat's senior aides—Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh—are not attending the meeting.

'Arafat has announced that he will stay in Gaza until Tuesday [5 July], with an option for a Jericho visit.]

Minister Discusses 'Unofficial' Meeting

NC0207102994 Paris AFP in English 0954 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Jerusalem, July 2 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat had an unofficial meeting early Saturday with Israeli Deputy Agriculture Minister Walid Sadiq during his landmark visit to the Gaza Strip.

Sadiq told AFP the meeting was "a personal initiative, not an official meeting." "I congratulated him on his visit, which can only contribute to peace. I also stressed the need to speed up the (autonomy) negotiations from now on," said Sadiq, an Israeli Arab member of the left-wing Meretz Party, which has 12 seats in parliament.

'Arafat, who arrived in the Gaza Strip to a hero's welcome Friday, said the 750,000 Israeli Arabs should "make their political, economic, and social contribution to Palestinian self-rule," according to Sadiq.

The PLO leader said they could "play an important role in establishing confidence between the Israeli population and the Palestinians."

Sadiq said it would be "premature" for 'Arafat to meet other members of the Israeli Government on his current visit. "Yasir 'Arafat is very busy at the moment, and it is better not to give ammunition to Israeli right-wingers. In any case, the Israeli Government and the PLO are negotiating via other channels," he said. 'Arafat is due to meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Paris Wednesday.

PLO chief autonomy negotiator Nabil Sha'th said 'Arafat was also expected to see an Israeli delegation during his stay in the Gaza Strip. The PLO leader was due to visit the Jabaliyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip Saturday, and Sha'th said 'Arafat would probably go to the self-rule enclave of Jericho in the West Bank Monday before leaving Tuesday for Paris.

Ten Labor MP's To Meet 'Arafat

NC0207200594 Paris AFP in English 1933 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Jerusalem, July 2 (AFP)—A delegation of 10 Israeli MP's from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's Labor Party are to travel to the Gaza Strip to meet PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat on Sunday, the head of the delegation said.

Yosi Katz, acting speaker for the party in parliament, told AFP Saturday that Rabin had given his consent to the meeting. "We want to show the PLO chief that Israeli opinion supports the peace process and hopes it is followed by the extension of autonomy to the rest of the occupied West Bank," Katz said.

Israeli leaders decided during a meeting Friday that they were ready to tackle the question of widening autonomy, launched in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho on May 4, official sources said.

Meanwhile Arafat received a delegation of Israeli Arab and Jewish academics Saturday at Gaza City, where he returned after 27 years of exile on Friday.

'Arafat Meeting Canceled at Rabin's Request

TA0307042294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called on Labor Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Katz to cancel the meeting he, along with seven other MK's, organized with Chairman 'Arafat. Rabin told MK Katz that the timing for the meeting is wrong. Katz told Qol Yisra'el that the premier's request left him with no choice and that the meeting, which was to have taken place in the Gaza Strip, has been canceled. Katz says he wanted to relay to the PLO chairman a message of support for the peace process on behalf of Israelis who are happy that they are no longer doing army reserve duty in the Gaza Strip.

Right-Wing Rallies in Jerusalem Protest 'Arafat Visit

Police Prepare for Mass Rally

TA0207190994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Approximately 25,000 worshipers today attended a Western Wall prayer organized by the joint right-wing command. The prayer proceeded peacefully and ended without unexpected events.

The police have beefed up their deployment in anticipation of the mass demonstration planned for tonight in central Jerusalem.

A general strike was observed today in East Jerusalem in protest over the murder of Silwan resident Hud Abu-Sunayna, whose body was found in West Jerusalem yesterday morning. [passage omitted]

'Tens of Thousands' Attend Rally

TA0207202094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The police have closed off the following streets in Jerusalem: King George, Yafo between Davidka and Tzahal Squares, Nevi'im, and Shivtey Yisra'el. These streets have been closed to private traffic. [passage omitted]

The demonstration staged by tens of thousands of antigovernment protesters in Tziyon Square in the center of Jerusalem continues. The demonstrators are calling out slogans against the prime minister and his policy. Addressing the rally, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu analyzed Yasir 'Arafat's Gaza speech, noting that 'Arafat had spoken of a Palestinian state in Jerusalem, the Negev, and the Galilee, to supplant Israel.

Police Commission Asaf Hefetz said the police will not permit protesters to block roads in Jerusalem or hinder access to the government compound tomorrow. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that in streets in the vicinity of Tziyon Square the police found stashes of tires, which the demonstrators planned to set on fire. In Sderot Rupin in the capital, nails which had been sprinkled on the road, punctured the tires of two cars.

Demonstrations staged by government policy opponents are under way at numerous intersections throughout the country. Protesters are flying flags and calling out antigovernment slogans.

Netanyahu Comments; U.S. Consulate Stoned

TA0307052294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The right-wing demonstration that started yesterday evening in Jerusalem ended about two hours ago. During the protests, four policemen were injured in clashes with the demonstrators: two by stones thrown at them, a third by a tear gas grenade, and the fourth in a physical confrontation. Right-wing opposition parties are hailing the protest as a major success. The organizers say the turnout exceeded their expectations. According to Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, more than 100,000 people were present in Zion Square. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami was at the demonstration:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Whether by accident or design, the organizers' choice of Zion Square for the center of their rally made it impossible to gauge just how many demonstrators may have turned up, but by all accounts, it was an impressive number, with Zion Square and the streets leading off—Ben-Yehuda, Rivlin, and Jaffa Street in both directions—packed with people almost as far as the eye could see. They came not only from the neighborhoods of Jerusalem but also by car or chartered bus from settlements and from towns and cities all over Israel. Their concern over the future of Jerusalem and their opposition to government agreements with Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO was clear from their banners and slogans and the cheers they gave to the politicians who addressed them. [passage omitted]

One of the biggest cheers from the crowd was sparked when Likud leader Bibi Netanyahu and his rival Ari'el Sharon shook hands on the podium. Netanyahu said the massive demonstration was a clear warning to the government to change its ways.

[Netanyahu] I call on the prime minister to adopt a standard of national consensus in which we would resurrect the things that were in common agreement for most of the Israeli public—namely, that we do not go back to the 1967 boundaries, we do not enable a Palestinian state to be formed in the territories of Judaea and Samaria, and that we take all the necessary steps to ensure the unity of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty. I think there is no reason why the government, if it is true to its promises to the voters, would not join us in that effort. I am afraid that, lacking a response from the government, we will have to continue our campaign of legitimate peaceful protests, as is our right and responsibility in a democracy. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 3 July in a similar report adds that when the demonstrators began to disperse, "thousands started to march toward the Old City, and an Arab vehicle was torched near Damascus Gate. The police told our correspondent Gil Litman that Arab shop windows and the windows and doors of houses were damaged by the demonstrators. The police closed the large iron gates of Damascus Gate, as well as other gates in the Old City, and forcibly prevented a large crowd from breaking into the Old City. Hundreds of demonstrators nevertheless managed to reach the square in front of the Western Wall, and dozens even tried to break through to the Temple Mount. Our correspondent notes that the organizers of the demonstration wanted to end it with an orderly procession along a route agreed on with the police, but many protesters did not heed the instructions. Some marched close to the prime minister's residence and, along the way, stoned the U.S. Consulate." The report adds that "the police will maintain their special deployment in Jerusalem and make sure that the ministers reach the weekly cabinet meeting undisturbed."]

There were also demonstrations against 'Arafat's visit at various road junctions in northern Israel and in Tel Aviv. The demonstrators waved flags and shouted slogans against Yasir 'Arafat and the Rabin government. In Tel Aviv, demonstrators set two tires on fire at a busy intersection, but traffic was not interrupted.

Cabinet Discusses Protest

TA0307121994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] The right wing continues to demonstrate outside Jerusalem's government complex against government policy and 'Arafat's visit. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the demonstration is now being conducted quietly. About an hour ago, there was a sharp confrontation between the police and the protesters, and 54 people were detained.

The cabinet's weekly meeting has ended. Several ministers charged that right-wing and settlers' circles use government funds to organize antigovernment demonstrations. Minister Shulamit Aloni claimed that many of the settlers live off government funds and use them to organize demonstrations against the government. Minister Ya'aqov Tzur made similar charges. Minister Yosi Sarid called for a state comptroller's investigation into the settlers' use of government funds to organize demonstrations. Minister Sarid complained that the investigation into the settlers' radio station, Channel 7, from which, he said, instructions are issued to those organizing demonstrations, which include unprecedentedly grave instigatory remarks, has not been completed. In response, the attorney general said that the police investigation into Channel 7 that he had ordered in May will be completed soon.

The Likud Knesset faction denounced the government for the criticism it voiced of the mass demonstration in Jerusalem last night. The Likud statement said that the admonishment reminds it of those dark regimes where legitimate criticism against the government is not permitted.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Likud faction called on the prime minister to reply to the Knesset plenum tomorrow to the no-confidence motions and not to send another minister. The National Religious Party faction said that the government is deliberately heating up the atmosphere in order to intimidate and create divisions among the people.

Ministers on Protests, Assassination Attempt

TA0307161294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] At today's cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin described the right-wing demonstrations as rejoicing over spilt blood. All the cabinet ministers stressed that the demonstrators had deviated from the boundaries of democratic protest. Environment Minister Yosi Sarid demanded that the state comptroller investigate the settlers' use of state funds to finance antigovernment demonstrations. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports.

[Begin recording] [Segal] At their weekly session, the cabinet ministers vehemently attacked the right-wing demonstrators. The ministers asserted that the demonstrators had gone beyond merely voicing their opinion and protesting. Their actions had deteriorated into rioting and into what several ministers described as the first seeds of insurrection. At the meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressed his anger about the developments that had taken place outside his office over the past 24 hours and described the demonstrations as rejoicing over spilt blood. He claimed that the settlers were using public funds. Minister Shulamit Aloni commented on the actions of Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

[Aloni] If he provides them with water, electricity, and other services then this comes out of municipal funds. Second, all the people from Gush Emunim [ideological religious settlers' movement] in Judaea and Samaria use public funds. Incidentally, they are also paid salaries from the public and use money from the public coffers. However, the element of insurrection lies in the fact that they are presenting a legitimate government as traitors; and, after all, traitors must be dealt with.

[Segal] Minister Yosi Sarid demanded that the state comptroller investigate the use of state funds to organize demonstrations against the government. He said that the government must compensate anyone who sustained injuries or damages during the rioting by the settlers, which took place mainly in East Jerusalem. Minister Ya'aqov Tzur expressed concern about Jerusalem's standing, which in his view, was damaged by the right-wing demonstrations.

[Tzur] I think that the most serious aspect of the matter is that merely in order to gain political capital, people are trying to make it look as though there were some sort of public split over Jerusalem. Actually, the only people who are creating this argument are the right-wing supporters who claim that such a split exists. Instead of the Israeli public's presenting a uniform and united stand with regard to Jerusalem, the right wing, the Jerusalem municipality, and the mayor have fabricated an imaginary rift, in order to frighten the public and create a political controversy.

[Segal] At the meeting, the ministers analyzed PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's statements over the past two days in Gaza City. In general, they expressed satisfaction and said that 'Arafat's remarks indicated his intention to continue the peace process and evinced a moderate and nonaggressive line. [end recording]

[Later in its newsreel, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew, in another report by political correspondent Udi Segal, adds that "at this morning's cabinet session, the head of the Shin Bet told the ministers that the Palestinian police had arrested, in addition to the two Israel Broadcasting Authority security guards, another man on Friday [1 July], during Yasir 'Arafat's speech. The head of the Shin Bet did not explain why the man had been arrested. Several ministers we spoke to after the cabinet session confirmed, on the basis of this information, the report carried by IDF radio on Friday according to which Palestinian witnesses had testified that they saw a man armed with a handgun being arrested." IDF radio carries a recorded passage with Minister Shim'on Shetrit who says: "As a result of the commotion there, several people were arrested, including the broadcasting authority guards. Additional people were apparently also arrested. We were just given a general report. We did not discuss the details of this matter."]

Police Clash With Settlers

TA0507053794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is due to arrive in Jericho this morning in an Egyptian helicopter. 'Arafat has already boarded the helicopter in Gaza. He intends to swear in members of the Palestinian Authority and make a speech to West Bank inhabitants.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has decided to disrupt the visit and block roads in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports from Mitzpe Yeriho that the inhabitants of the settlement, which is located near Jericho, clashed with policemen after blocking the main road. The settlers seized a bus containing Bethlehem residents a few minutes ago and tried to harm the passengers. Soldiers and police defended the passengers with their bodies, and the bus crossed the intersection. The settlers are once again dispersing Ninja nails on the road.

Jordan Rift Valley settlers announced that they do not oppose 'Arafat's visit to Jericho, but will prevent him from traveling along Jordan Rift Valley roads. Jericho's main square was full of people waiting for 'Arafat, but, after learning that the main event would take place in a square near the Allenby bridge, they began moving there.

Rabin Rejects Mubarak Proposal for Tripartite Meeting

TA0307181894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1630 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpt] We have learned that two days before Yasir 'Arafat's arrival, Egyptian President Mubarak proposed a tripartite meeting among himself, Yasir 'Arafat, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The proposal was rejected by Rabin. Although he is clearly prepared to meet with the Egyptian president, he refused to help the PLO leader's public relations efforts prior to his arrival in the Palestinian autonomous areas. The evening before 'Arafat's arrival, one day after the initial proposal, the Egyptian president again proposed a meeting with Rabin in al-'Arish. Rabin, who feared that 'Arafat would also be included in this meeting, decided to decline the invitation.

At today's cabinet session, all the ministers expressed their satisfaction with the visit itself, with 'Arafat's behavior, and with the statements he has made in his speeches. The prime minister today said that, despite the short prior notice given, the visit had gone well until now. In private conversations, Rabin expressed his reservations about some of the PLO chairman's affectations of sovereignty, including his meeting with foreign ambassadors in Gaza City yesterday. That is why he furiously prevented a visit with 'Arafat by Labor knesset members. [passage omitted]

IDF Denies Generals Approached Sha'th on Meeting

TA0207092794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a very uncharacteristic statement, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman last night denied Dr. Nabil Sha'th's assertion that he was approached by Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq and Major General Dani Rothschild with a request to arrange a meeting with Israeli officials. [passage omitted]

Beilin on Syria Talks; 'Secret' Paper Disclosed

TA0207103794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Studio discussion between anchorman Yoram Ronen and political correspondent Shlomo Raz—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ronen] Political correspondent Shlomo Raz, what is happening on the Syrian track? Is anything moving or are we still treading water and merely anticipating that something may happen by 1995. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that if there are no developments on the Syrian track by 1995, then nothing will ever happen.

[Raz] First of all, Secretary of State Warren Christopher is coming to the region on another shuttle mission on 17 July. We remember that the Americans put off this trip until they reached the conclusion that there was a good reason to come. You just mentioned Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin who is currently visiting the United States. At the end of last week, he held intensive talks with senior State Department officials in Washington.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] It is very hard to say before this round of talks whether there will be a breakthrough. As you are well aware, there is a general effort to lower expectations. It is interesting to note the intensive U.S. preparations being made prior to this trip to the region. To the best of my knowledge, if significant progress is indeed made, the visit may not necessarily end after two or three days. There may be a possibility of prolonging the trip in order to continue the negotiations between Damascus and Jerusalem. There is definitely an assessement that the differences in positions between the two countries are still very large. At the same time, it is believed that these gaps can be bridged by intense efforts, since the period of time that the parties have at their disposal in order to reach an agreement is not long. Both parties understand that this period is not more than a few months.

[Raz] Are you saying that the visit may be extended and Secretary of State Christopher may stay in the region beyond 23 July, when, I believe, he is expected to attend a conference of southeast Asian countries in Bali, Indonesia.

[Beilin] That is what I was led to understand. I understand that he may leave on 21 July, but in the event that there is progress that demands the continuation of the negotiations, the talks will not necessarily be cut off because of Christopher's schedule.

[Raz] You spoke about special preparations. What do you mean?

[Beilin] There were several earlier dates on which the Americans planned to visit the region. Their arrival was put off. Since the last round of talks the Americans had the opportunity to talk to both parties, both the Syrians and us, from Washington. During this period they clarified the picture for themselves in order to better prepare for their visit and for the continuation of the negotiations. Of course, they are well aware that the gaps between the two sides are large, but they also believe that these differences can be bridged in principle if the parties show sufficient goodwill. The United States greatly appreciates the efforts made by Israel and the statements voiced by its leaders recently with regard to the peace arrangements. The Syrians are also expected to follow our lead and move closer to our positions. [end recording]

[Ronen] Yosi Beilin's remarks imply that certain developments are indeed expected when Secretary of State Christopher arrives in approximately two weeks.

[Raz] Most certainly. Although there is no guarantee of a dramatic breakthrough, progress is definitely expected on the basis of the contacts held by the United States since Christopher's last shuttle missions which were reported earlier by Yosi Beilin. In this respect, I would like to mention a secret document I have obtained which was prepared by the Foreign Ministry's Political Planning Department. This document states among other things, and I quote: The United States has still not hammered it through to Syria that they should abandon any hope for U.S. pressure on Israel and instead opt for direct negotiations between the leaders of both countries. The secret Political Planning Department document also stipulates that Syria is presenting the situation as though time is in its favor, and Damascus apparently hopes that as elections in Israel draw closer officials in Jerusalem will feel pressured to adopt more flexible positions.

Another very interesting observation in the document is that the most recent framework for U.S. involvement in the Syrian-Israeli track—or in other words, the shuttle missions—has only just started and has not yet been fully exploited. The document therefore recommends that Warren Christopher and the U.S. peace team continue their shuttle missions to the Middle East. The document also states—and the prime minister scornfully dismissed this assertion—that the time element is no less important for Syria than it is for Israel and the United States. The reasons for this are fear of a Likud government in Israel and the depreciation of expensive weapon systems. This was why the prime minister told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this week about the Syrian's massive arms buildup. The document adds that all the above, compounded by uncertainty about the future state of the economy due to foreign debt, makes the time element no less important for Syria than for Israel. The document recommends that efforts be made to shorten the procedures related to the transfer of authority to the Palestinians and the implementation of self-rule. As for Jordan, discussions should begin on all the elements of peace beyond water and border issues. The document mentions issues such as refugees and holy sites. [passage omitted]

Let us conclude with the autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. During his trip to the United States, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin met with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

[Begin Beilin recording] What the UN secretary general said was very interesting. He told me that their major effort right now with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict was in seeing the autonomy succeed. More specifically, in the improvement of the economic situation in the Gaza Strip. If from its present difficult situation, Gaza becomes a success story, then this will signify the success of the whole move. Therefore, the UN secretary general wants to physically relocate the various UN agencies operating in the area to the Gaza Strip. For example, he wants to move UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] and all its hundreds of employees from Vienna to Gaza. He wants to do the same thing with other agencies. He wants Terje Larsen himself to live and work in Gaza city. He wants to turn Gaza into a success story over the next few years, especially in the fields of construction and employment. I must say that I could not hear anything more encouraging from him with regard to the autonomy. [end recording]

[Raz] The month of July will apparently be a scorcher, not only because of the weather and the high humidity. July will also witness some very intensive political activity.

Commentary Calls on Rabin To Stop Syria Threats

TA0107174394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jul 94 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Will There Be War?"]

[Text] In one of the most outstanding manifestations of his split leader-commentator personality, Yitzhaq Rabin reverted to threats of war this week. He promised that missiles would be launced on Tel Aviv if the prime minister, whom he met on several occasions, fails to attain an arrangement with Syria. Of all his recent pronouncements, this was the most annoying. What does he think? That he can intimidate us and then play the innocent? Who, more than himself, will be more to blame when the day comes?

Rabin's initial version was that if a territorial compromise with Damascus is not attained within three to seven years (notice the length of time he allows for a fiasco and how he still talks about a compromise) a war will break out. He went on torturing by saying that what Iraq inflicted on us in the Gulf war will be "child's play" compared to the missiles of the next war. The defense minister in him added a few days later that if this is the case he will propose within two to three years to allocate "enormous sums of money" to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to prepare itself. I wish Rabin had as clear a picture in his mind of the peace with Syria as he has of the apocalypse.

Another personality within him should tell that responsibility for preventing such calamity lies primarily with him. It should also tell him that we do not have so much time and that there will be no territorial compromise. However much one tries to blur it with political sophistry, the truth is that nothing is stopping Rabin from taking the step necessary to make progress. He is the only one standing in the way of a serious attempt to prevent the apocalyptic vision he sold us.

Had he been psychologically and ideologically ready, Rabin could have long ago relayed the following message to the Syrians: I propose a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for convincing security arrangements. In order to prevent a horrible war, I want to hear from you as soon as possible whether you are prepared for full-fledged and complete recognition. What tragedy would befall us? Would missiles fall on Tel Aviv? However, the threatening and threatened Rabin has so far failed to persuade the prime minister to make such a move.

The biggest political lie, inflated by such apocalyptic prophecies, is that to make such a move Rabin first needs the support of the public. This is not true. The message to al-Asad (a secret note, not public blabber) will definitely stipulate the condition known to every Israeli child that a comprehensive agreement in the Golan Heights will require either a referendum or elections. What stops such a move is Rabin himself, not popular opposition or the Syrian president's evasions. Because of his fears and ambiguity, the prime minister refuses to give the first push that will break the circle and spare us a disaster. He is also preventing the Americans from playing an intensive mediating role, lest they come out with such a comprehensive proposal.

This is not the first time that his blather about Syria heightens the dangers he cautions against. In April 1967, when he was chief of staff, Rabin sent planes to Damascus for the first air operation of such dimensions. He exacerbated the tension on the border with unbridled pronouncements to the effect that Israel will yet deal with the Syrian Government. Six Syrian planes were shot down in the dog fight, two of them near Damascus. The Soviet Union thought Israel was planning to bring down the Ba'th regime and sent a warning to al-Nasir. The Arab leaders were no angels, but the conventional wisdom since then has been that Rabin accelerated the expedition of Egyptian troops to the Sinai and perhaps even the war.

The duty of the prime minister is not to share with us his fears about what might happen, but to do his best to make the necessary things happen. This he should do discreetly, and not by shooting off his mouth. The prime minister has changed back and forth his priorities in the negotiations. Now he has once again placed Syria at the top, and, unlike Shim'on Peres, he has recently been giving reasons why the pace of implementing the agreement with the PLO should be slowed down.

At the moment, the proper order of priorities may very well be to prepare an agreement with Syria (that includes Lebanon) and Jordan and to call for an election. And, if they attain the support of the people, Rabin and Peres could proceed to deal with the tough question of the permanent arrangement in the West Bank. However, what is so worrisome in the prime minister's moves is the absence of any sign that he is psychologically ready for a peace agreement with al-Asad. Edward Djerejian, the outgoing U.S. ambassador, told me this week that an arrangement is "do-able." The old-time Syria hand said that the United States should help bring the positions closer and that this is possible.

To that end, Rabin had better speak first to himself and al-Asad and not to the street, which has so far gone along with him on all the issues. Let him stop intimidating us and arranging an alibi for himself. If there is a war, he will be one of the main culprits.

Official on Iranian, Syrian Roles in South Lebanon

TA0507061794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in south Lebanon, by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, on 5 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Uri Lubrani believes that yesterday's Hizballah action against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts are part of our ongoing confrontation with the organization and not something special.

[Lubrani] We have already experienced similar attacks in the past. I think it should be seen as part of our ongoing confrontation with Hizballah, which overtly does all it can to undermine our status in the security zone. The area where yesterday's attack took place is destined for trouble with Hizballah, which knows that if it succeeds there it will cause us lots of problems.

[Menashe] Is it an attempt to lead Israel to derail the negotiations?

[Lubrani] I think that all Hizballah activity is based chiefly on the Iranian desire to derail the peace process, and specifically to prevent the chance of making progress in the Lebanese track. They will do all they can to push us into responses that contain the risk of derailing the peace process.

[Menashe] Can Israel under certain circumstances be pushed into such activities?

[Lubrani] I hope not, but it is not inconceivable that if Hizballah activities reach the level that calls for a very firm response, somebody might view it as a move which could suspend the process between ourselves and Lebanon, or the entire process. We cannot make forecasts. Lebanon has an active front, where something different occurs daily, where efforts are constantly being made to incite us and the SLA to take action against the civilian inhabitants of the security zone. We do not have another front like it.

[Menashe] Is 'Arafat's visit's in any way linked to this development?

[Lubrani] I do not think so.

[Menashe] Can we say that the Syrians are behind the well-planned activities along the entire front?

[Lubrani] It is difficult for me to reply to that with certainty. I can merely say that there is no doubt that, had the Syrians wanted to prevent such activities, they could have done so. The very fact that they have not prevented it, although they could have foreseen it, indicates that they are interested in encouraging activity against us in Lebanon, while not being directly blamed.

[Menashe] That is the way the Syrians negotiate, Lubrani said. On the one hand, they sit with us around the negotiating table, and on the other, forces are dispatched to provoke us. He also said he hopes that when the U.S. secretary of state visits soon, he will bring about progress in the Syrian track. At this stage, there is no progress in the negotiations with Syria. Even if we want to make haste, we must act as though the contrary is true, Lubrani said, in reference to the negotiations with Syria.

Knesset Rejects 3 No-Confidence Motions

TA0407185594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Excerpt] This evening, the Knesset rejected three motions of no confidence in the government by a majority of 56 votes to 47. The members of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Knesset faction were absent from the plenum, except for Knesset Member 'Azran, who supported the no-confidence motions. The members of the YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] faction were also absent during the vote. [passage omitted]

Likud Demands Rabin Reply to Motions

TA0307180094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1630 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] The Likud faction tonight sharply condemned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements, describing them as nonsense and calling them a totally unrestrained attack. Mr. Rabin continues his wild incitement while exhibiting hysteria and a total loss of control, the Likud faction declared, asserting that he was leading the people toward an irreparable national rift and sowing internecine hatred.

The Likud faction demanded that the prime minister appear before the Knesset plenum tomorrow to reply to the opposition's motions of no-confidence and not send a minister on his behalf.

Peres Leaves on Official Visit to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan

TA0307043994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left on an official visit to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan last night. He will meet with government leaders and members of the Jewish community. On 6 July, Peres will arrive in Paris, where he, together with Prime Minister Rabin and PLO leader 'Arafat, will receive the UNESCO prize.

Rabin Addresses Labor CC Convention

TA0307172894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1332 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Address by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at Labor Central Committee Convention in Tel Aviv—live]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen, without detracting from the importance of the Histadrut affairs the Central Committee [CC] has convened to discuss, we will err if we fail to understand that today national attention is not focused on the Histadrut election results. National attention is focused on the singular struggle being waged on the country's future and its course, on exhausting the opportunity for peace while safeguarding security. This is what the primary public struggle is being waged on, and in that context, I would like to point out several things.

First of all, we achieved the Declaration of Principles [DOP]—which was followed by the implementation of its first stage—as well as the Cairo agreement, the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. Six weeks have elapsed since the implementation was completed, and all in all, the results are favorable even on the security level. This does not mean that no terrorist attacks will take place, but the incidence of attacks has undoubtedly declined, and almost all the attacks are perpetrated by radical Islamic elements—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad—who have one goal: to harm the agreement, to which they are opposed. Now, I must say the radical Israeli right wing is rejoicing over blood spilled by radical Islamic murderous terrorists, and making attempts to use the Israeli victims as a lever against the agreement. The radical Islamic Jihad and Hamas murderers are means exploited by Israel's radical right wing. But the attempts of both will be of no avail. The move will be pursued.

'Arafat's arrival in Gaza is a part of the agreement. We want the Palestinian pro-agreement elements to fortify their position vis-a-vis the agreement opponents.

There is no doubt that the most mendacious, inane thing possible was insolently perpetrated yesterday by the Likud which, lying through its teeth, told the nation and the world that the nation is divided regarding the unity of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty and regarding Jerusalem's being the capital of Israel. I will say it simply: It was, it is political villainy to present a picture alleging that there is controversy on the unity of Jerusalem, on our sovereignty in it, and on its remaining the capital of Israel. I do not need any stamp of approval on the matter of Jerusalem from anyone in the Likud. None of them contributed to the unity of Jerusalem in any of the wars Israel has waged as much as we and our colleagues did. Neither Bibi [Binyamin] Netanyahu nor Ehud Olmert will teach us about united Jerusalem.

The third thing: The attempt to claim that there is an argument on the Jerusalem issue is undoubtedly detrimental to the State of Israel, but the right wing's historical falsehood is now compounded by the lies of its contemporary, the Likud. We have to deal with it.

The fourth thing: It pains me to see the thousands of settlers squatting in Jerusalem. They would do better to share in the labors of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], which is guarding their settlements, their children. Had they done it, they would have assisted security. While they, inhabitants of the territories, went to demonstrate, the IDF stayed behind to maintain security. The government was and is responsible for the residents' security even when they abandon their settlements to attend an antigovernment demonstration. It is a shame, it is a shame that they do not feel as fully involved in the IDF's endeavors to maintain security on the border and in settlements as the residents of the north do. The Judaea and Samaria settlers should learn from the Lebanese border inhabitants how to cooperate in safeguarding their own and their settlements' security. Much more can be done, together with the IDF, provided they are less preoccupied with demonstrations and more with guarding their own settlements and their children as they are bused to schools.

We will continue the process, as we have pledged to do, and all the right-wing rallies and malicious lies, which are unprecedented in Israeli democracy, will do them no good. And I will repeat today of all days: Those who want to get the Likud into the Histadrut should take a look at what they can expect. Today there is no greater patriotic or partisan duty, nothing that will better serve our country than the duty to prevent the Likud from entering the Histadrut building. Therefore, decisions we will pass here today are important, because in a year or two, they will have national consequences.

So far, the Labor party was able to muster a majority. We did not get a majority this time, but let us at least take a broader view of the import of letting the Likud into the Histadrut. I am again appealing to you: We do have some bitter disagreements with RAM [Ramon-Meretz Histadrut list], but we must remember that on the national level, they are our partners, they are our future partners. Without them, the government will be composed of radical right-wing, religious, and ultra-Orthodox parties. These are the nation's options. Do you want to open the Histadrut gates? If you do, the country and the nation will suffer the consequences, because unlike direct mayoral elections, after which coalitions are made, these are party elections, and if we are incapable of ignoring our personal emotions and taking a broader view of issues at stake, in view of the developments in the right wing....[pauses] The right wing is becoming most radical. Gush Emunim, the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is the driving force behind the Likud, and not vice versa. Today Gush Emunim is the driving force behind rabbis, too—most of them, not all. The most extreme right-wing members dictate the tone. If we are incapable of standing up to them in every sector and on every front, we will kill all chances for peace, we will face dire consequences, because we will have failed to take advantage of the great opportunity to achieve peace—no matter if it entails certain risks. Therefore, even when discussing Histadrut issues, do not forget the national picture.

I will not address the question of where the Labor party stands with the street at this time. I regret to say it stands nowhere. No one is to blame, because the party has been busy doing other, equally important things. We have to complete these things, and then to bounce back, to get our act together, and to start competing for the Israeli street, too. We must not leave it solely to a group of reserve officers, members of the Council for Peace and Security. The Labor party must ask itself whether it has a young guard, whether it has a youth organization, and whether they can march in the streets, and if the answers are negative, it should take action to change the situation. It is not too late, we can do it. We should not do things off the cuff; rather, we should organize ourselves and compete for the Israeli street, which has hardly seen us since the elections. This is the situation.

In general terms, I am satisfied with the Gaza-Jericho First implementation, and I feel good about the drop in terrorism in Gaza. It still endures in Judaea and Samaria, but in these areas, we are the rulers, not the Palestinians. There are still a few problems. I know who the Palestinian terror elements are and what their objectives are. They oppose the agreement and seek to harm it. They want to stoke the extreme right wing's fire, and there is a vicious circle of a partnership between the Hamas murderers and the radical right wing, although there is no comparison between the two. [passage omitted]

I warmly recommend that the Labor party seize the opportunity to expand the government. The Central Committee has empowered the Bureau and the Knesset faction for the eventuality of an agreement with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], if and when one is achieved. I propose that the same be done if and when we reach an agreement with one or two other factions—provided, of course, that the government guidelines remain unchanged. The Oslo and Cairo agreements exist, and they are the basis of the government policy. Therefore, we will not permit any coalition consideration to harm them, and no future coalition will be based on any change. There will be no change, no impairment. I think this problem should be tackled, lest it be as much as said that we are a minority coalition—for today, we are indeed a minority coalition. We have the buffer support of several factions, and thus we have a Knesset majority for our political moves, but as coalition, we are a minority coalition of 56, and it is time to act to expand it. I believe it is possible, even if it takes another week or two or three. We intend to expand the coalition by the end of the Knesset's summer session. I see it as a vital need in view of the rough, the formidable competition which has divided the public—albeit not into equal parts, because the majority is with us. [passage omitted]

Husayn Returns From 'Successful' U.S. Visit

JN0207181894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur returned to the homeland today following visits to Britain and the United States. During his visit to the United States, his majesty underwent medical checkups which confirmed that his majesty enjoys good health and that signs of the disease no longer exist.

In a statement to our correspondent, His Majesty King Husayn stressed that his visit to the United States was successful and that the U.S. Administration understood the Jordanian position and promised to support it in a positive manner:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Sir, praise be to God on your safe return. Allow us to congratulate you on the results of the medical checkups, and on the birth of your grandson, al-Husayn.

[Husayn] Thank you, may God bless you.

[Correspondent] Sir, following your successful visit to the United States, what is your impression about the U.S. Administration's stand?

[Husayn] It seems that the U.S. Administration is serious regarding the peace process. It understands our position and situation. They all [U.S. officials] have stressed to me their care for bilateral relations between us, and for supporting Jordan in the future in an effective and positive manner. Praise be to God, my visit was successful.

[Correspondent] Your majesty, you know that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is now visiting the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho, what do you wish for him and the Palestinian people?

[Husayn] We wish him success, and we hope the Palestinian Arab people close their ranks to achieve all their objectives and goals on their national soil.

[Correspondent] Sir, we, also, are about to enter negotiations in the region with the Israelis. What do you expect to happen at the negotiations this month?

[Husayn] I believe that within a short time, we will begin the strenuous and objective negotiations process to discuss all the issues on the agenda [preceding word in English] which was approved in Washington after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the meeting which was held there. We have ahead of us a great work and a battle for peace in the near future. We beseech God to grant us success and hope that the results will be good, especially since our brothers have proceeded on the road. Egypt was at the lead, then those directly concerned with the issue, the dear people and brothers in Palestine. Now, we should take care of this homeland's affairs so that it will continue to be strong in face of all challenges, God willing.

[Correspondent] Sir, what about the economic situation in the coming stage?

[Husayn] God willing, the economic situation will improve. We hope that this will be the case in the future. [end recording]

His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur were received at Amman Airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Her Highness Princess Tharwat, Her Highness Princess Basmah, His Highness 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, and a number of their highnesses the princesses, princes, and members of the royal family. They were also received by the Senate president, the House of Representatives speaker, advisers to His Majesty King Husayn, the deputy prime minister, the crown prince's special adviser, the chief chamberlain, the king's personal secretary, the ministers, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, senior government and military officials, and the U.S. and British ambassadors in Amman.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and His Highness Prince Ghazi Bin-Muhammad, returned with their majesties.

Council of Ministers Discusses King's U.S. Visit

JN0307160494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Report by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab]

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali presented a comprehensive report at a special Council of Ministers meeting convened to listen to a comprehensive and detailed review of the political and economic dimensions of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States and his meeting with U.S. Administration officials, and the results expected from the summit meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

During that summit meeting, President Clinton showed an understanding of Jordan's central role and needs as a result of the peace process.

Dr. al-Majali reviewed the Jordanian position that was emphasized by His Majesty King Husayn during all his meetings with U.S. Administration officials, which is based on a belief in a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

Following the meeting, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, information minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs, told reporters:

[Begin al-'Anani recording] During that visit, Jordan emphasized that its main principle in the peace process is one that holds that this process has benefits, and these benefits cannot be attained without comprehensive, just, and lasting peace, and that if all issues are not resolved on all fronts, this peace will remain a deficient and incomplete peace, and will face the threat of instability at any moment in the future. [end recording]

Al-Majali on King's U.S. Talks, Debts

JN0407100994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 July 94 p 3

[Excerpts] Amman (J.T.)—Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali Sunday [3 July] briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States and his talks with President Bill Clinton. [passage omitted]

Jordan Television quoted Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani as saying after the meeting that Jordan has reaffirmed its stand with regard to the peace process during the King's visit to Washington.

The King has stressed in his talks in Washington that the peace process produces good benefits for all, but these benefits can only be realised under an umbrella of a comprehensive and just peace.

Dr. al-'Anani said King Husayn reiterated Jordan's keeness to attain a comprehensive peace on all tracks thus reaffirming the Kingdom's rejection of any separate deals wth Israel.

He said Jordan presented its needs as a result of the peace process and urged the world community to recognise and assist in helping the country through its economic hardships in order to contribute to the peace process.

Dr. al-'Anani said Jordan was clear in explaining that it would be difficult for the country to shoulder the cost of peace while continuing to repay debts and implement an economic restructuring programme.

The U.S. Administration, said Dr. al-'Anani, has clearly pledged to play a leading role in providing Jordan with economic assistance and backing the Kingdom's quest at the Paris Club meeting which has eventually resulted in the rescheduling of 1,200 [currency not specified] million in debts and an agreement on settling them over a 25-year-period with a 1-year-grace period.

He said this means that the Kingdom would not be shouldering the burdens of debt in the short term.

Referring to Jordan's debts to the United States the minister said they amount to $950 million of which $250 million were in the form of U.S. guarantees for Jordan's imports.

But, he said, it would require long debates in U.S. Congress to cancel any of these debts, and President Clinton has promised that Congress would be arriving at a decision in this concern.

Furthermore, the minister said the U.S. Administration expressed readiness to make special arrangements to narrow the deficit in the balance of trade between the United States and Jordan by allowing Jordan to increase its exports to American markets.

Mr. al-'Anani said Jordan's potential role in the region has been stressed. Its geographic location and its technological, economic, educational, cultural and human resources capacities qualify it to play an active role in the regional building process, Dr. al-'Anani added.

He said Jordan's concern for and interest in forming a regional economic bloc, and its conviction that it can play an active regional role has also been stressed. [passage omitted]

Talks With Israel To Begin 'Second Half' of Jul

JN0207191894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, has said that Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations and Jordan's ambassador in Washington, will lead Jordan's delegation to Jordanian-Israeli meetings that will be held at a yet unspecified date during the second half of this month. The meetings will be held at the experts level in an area in Wadi al-'Arabah, north of al-'Aqabah, on the Jordanian-Israeli border.

In press remarks at the end of the Council of Ministers' meeting today, Dr. al-'Anani said that the first meeting will specify the mechanism and venues of the subsequent meetings of the three joint committees, which will discuss border, security, water, environment, and energy issues. He said that a decision to set up the three committees was made during His Majesty King Husayn's recent visit to Washington, so that Jordan would attain its territorial and water rights and ensure its sovereignty over them. He added that no date has been set for the end of these meetings, which will continue until the conferees arrive at specific agreements providing for the Jordanian rights.

In response to a question by the Jordanian News Agency, Dr. al-'Anani stressed that Jordan is very concerned about its relations with sisterly Syria and works to see the Jordanian-Syrian relations based on brotherhood, friendship, mutual respect, and respect for each country's own particularities.

Al-'Anani said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit Jordan at a date slated for the next half of July in the course of his shuttle tours between Syria and Israel, during which he will seek to boost the negotiations between the two countries toward achieving their objectives.

The information minister denied a Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. agreement to set the date and venue of the meeting of the tripartite committee set up by the three states. He said that what has been published in this regard is premature. He stressed that Jordan's official stand on that will be decided soon after the Israeli proposal for a committee meeting is studied.

He stressed that Jordan has reached a final agreement on the inspections of Iraq-bound commodities by Lloyds International. The agreement has been reached after the two sides agreed on the interpretation of some terms used in the agreement between Jordan and the company, making sure that while inspections will not run counter to or breach Jordan's sovereignty, they will meet international demands in such a way which will ensure that inspections will implement relevant UN resolutions.

Al-'Anani Discusses Commission Meetings

JN0307194894 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 3 Jun 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Preparations are under way for this month's border demarcation talks with Israel expected to be held on the cease-fire lines north of al-'Aqabah. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said some details need to be worked out before the meeting.

Dr. al-'Anani told the "News at Ten" that Jordan was preparing all the materials it needs to negotiate the border demarcation.

[Begin al-'Anani recording] Well, right now, you know, preparations are under way for that meeting, and yet we have to admit that some of the details are not yet worked out. They have not [been] agreed on, between us and the Israelis. Yet, I believe that there is a commission which was established—umbrella commission—which was established early June of last month when both Jordanians and Israelis met in Washington D.C. There will be three subcommissions under the umbrella commission, one for boundaries, the other one for water, and the third one is going to be for security.

The bilateral commission is going to meet somewhere in the Jordan Valley north of al-'Aqabah to agree on the modalities of their work, how they are going to carry out their functions, and how the subcommissions are going to meet, and how they are going to report to the main commission. So, I believe details need to be worked out. This is a long and tedious process. One has to develop the stamina for it. But I believe that Jordan is ready; we have finalized all detailed maps and research papers, and legal points, and I believe that we are ready. [end recording]

Dr. al-'Anani was speaking after today's cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. The prime minister briefed the cabinet on his majesty the king's visit to the United States and his talks with President Clinton and senior Administration officials. Dr. al-Majali told the cabinet that President Clinton had voiced admiration of Jordan's vital role in establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East, and great understanding of its needs.

The prime minister reiterated Jordan's commitment to a comprehensive peace, meaning the rejection of unilateral agreements or opposition.

The cabinet also discussed other reports that an agreement on the issue of refugees would follow the interim stage of Palestinian self-rule. It called for rethinking the role of UNRWA to center on increasing the refugees self-reliance, and that it should not abandon its mission until a final settlement is reached to the refugee problem.

Minister: 'Arafat's Return 'Major Development'

JN0107194194 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 1 Jul 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] In Amman, Minister of Information Jawad al-'Anani said 'Arafat's return to Gaza was a very important development.

[Begin al-'Anani recording] Well, we think that this development is very important, and it is going to carry out some sensation. It was scheduled from the beginning after the signature of the May 4th agreement between the PLO and Israel. President 'Araaft was supposed to go in the Palestinian territories, and we think that this is going to be such an important and major development. But the degree of its importance and its vitality depends on what kind of results is going to produce as far as the Palestinian rights are concerned. [end recording]

Paper Views Importance of 'Arafat's Return to Gaza

JN0207081494 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Jul 94 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Important Step on a Long Road"]

[Text] Undoubtedly, the return of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to Gaza is a practical and important step on an arduous and long road that requires relentless and coordinated work to continue the peace process on the Palestinian track to reach the hoped-for objective concerning legitimate rights.

In spite of the visit's importance and its implications, and away from the ceremonial manifestations and joy that accompanied 'Arafat's return to assume responsibilities in the self-rule area, we should not forget the facts on the ground in the self-rule area in particular, and in the Palestinian territories in general. These facts are the deteriorating economic and living conditions there, which have been caused by the Israeli occupation and the destruction and damage it inflicted on the infrastructure in the Palestinian Arab territories.

Hence, relentless and coordinated efforts during the next stage should focus on mending what had been damaged by the occupation, on and coordination with Arab brothers on all levels, especially Jordan, because this will be a strong support for the Palestinian side in its negotiations with Israel on the one hand, and in expediting improvements in Palestinian conditions, on the other.

It is fair to say that Jordan, under its Hashemite leadership, which is known for its support for the Palestinian people and their just cause and for extending all forms of support from the very beginning, will not spare any effort in continuing its absolute support for the Palestinian brothers, who are preparing for the battle of construction and reconstruction after long years of Israeli occupation, which destroyed everything in the Palestinian Arab land.

Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's return to Gaza after years of estrangement and suffering is considered an important landmark in the work for the restoration of the legitimate national Palestinian rights. This does not prevent us from saying that the visit's importance and vitality will largely depend on the results it has on the legitimate Palestinian rights, foremost of which is the Palestinians right to self-determination in their homeland away from all forms of Israeli hegemony.

Columnist Ridicules 'Arafat's Call for Confederation

JN0307123594 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Jul 94 p 2

["An Issue and An Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Confederation Once Again"]

[Text] No observer can take seriously Yasir 'Arafat's call made in Gaza for the establishment of a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians.

For, this call, which is not serious in the first place, cannot win the support of any Jordanian or Palestinian. It is widely known that the confederation slogan, which he has long promoted, is no longer desired by the Palestinians or Jordanians.

This is not because the Jordanians and fraternal Palestinians do not seek an organic and fateful unity between them, but because the parochial and secessionist sentiments nurtured by the Palestinian leadership have placed the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship at the gates of a dark tunnel, where there is no light or end in sight.

Given all this, we would like to note that the Palestinian leadership, which has thus far failed to endorse an economic agreement with Jordan that was drafted by a Palestinian delegation in a manner that takes into account the Palestinian national interests, cannot be serious in its call for the establishment of any kind of union or unity with Jordan. Additionally, any talk of confederation or federation with Jordan is premature at present.

For it is impossible to establish a confederation between Jordan, an independent and fully sovereign country, and a Palestinian autonomous region that will remain under Israeli sovereignty for the next five years. Every single move on the autonomous areas by the chief administrator of these areas requires prior permission from the Israeli government.

Unity between any two or more fraternal peoples must be based on the free and voluntary choice of the peoples concerned, and between independent and fully sovereign states, for that matter.

The Jordanian people have welcomed the homecoming of the Palestinian leader 'Arafat. Nonetheless, they wished that his homecoming had not been predicated on the approval of the Israeli government. They did not want to see his homecoming consummated under the protection of Israeli troops.

The Jordanian people had wished for a more majestic and august homecoming for the Palestinian leader. They did not like to see his homecoming associated with the protection provided by the occupation troops.

Incidentally, the Jordanian people are eager to see a full merger with the fraternal Palestinian people, provided that this merger is under Hashemite leadership. I believe the majority of the Palestinian people will not oppose such a union.

For the relationship between the two peoples is historical and special, particularly since the fraternal Palestinian people have had a highly successful experience of unity with the Jordanian people under the Hashemite leadership.

Al-Hirawi: No Lebanese Territory To Be Relinquished

NC0207100794 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has told visitors that peace in the region will never come at Lebanon's expense.

He said: We cling to every inch of Lebanese territory and will relinquish no territory in the south and Western al-Biqa'.

Al-Hirawi on Meeting With al-Asad, U.S. Contacts

NC0507110594 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p 10

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has revealed that he was the first to learn about an Israeli plan to withdraw gradually from the Syrian occupied Golan Heights over a period of eight years. He said that when he told Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad about it, he replied: They are dreaming!

This came in a private meeting in which President al-Hirawi was asked to give his opinion on a Middle East settlement in light of recent Israeli and U.S. statements.

Al-Hirawi said: "When I read a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin I felt pleased. I did not find it bad, because Rabin seemed to understand the Syrian position and could no longer ignore it. Under al-Asad, Syria will not retreat from its position and will not accept the occupation of a single inch of the Golan. Israel must act accordingly; President al-Asad has great patience and can wait years before a full withdrawal is achieved."

The president said the conflict between the clear Syrian position and Israel's intransigence lies in the priorities.

Syria wants the withdrawal first, followed by security arrangements, then peace. Israel wants peace, that is, normalization, first, security next, then withdrawal.

President al-Hirawi said that after he conveyed to President al-Asad his information on the Israeli plan for a phased withdrawal over eight years, Christopher came to Damascus with the same plan. He said al-Asad then contacted him to say: You are right, Abu-George [al-Hirawi], but the Israelis are dreaming.

In the same private meeting, President al-Hirawi revealed that Lebanese Ambassador in Washington Riyad Tabbarah, at the White House to present his credentials, heard that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would visit the region for a shuttle tour between Damascus and Tel Aviv. The president said he conveyed the information to the Syrians and heard from them something to the effect that Christopher must this time bring a clear position concerning Israel's withdrawal from the Golan first.

President al-Hirawi said: Our crisis would have been resolved quickly had George Bush remained in power. He is a strong man with great political and security information and experience. Clinton is surrounded by Jews on all sides and they are obstructing his movement.

But after hearing Clinton's statement on a comprehensive peace following his meeting with King Husayn of Jordan, President al-Hirawi believed the statement was directed toward Syria and that a significant part of a peace deal, perhaps a declaration of principles, would inevitably be achieved this year.

Al-Hirawi said President Clinton now knows President al-Asad very well; he admired him during their meeting in Geneva in December 1993 and he has reports on the clear Syrian position. Christopher believes it is essential to work seriously with Syria, which will not retreat a single inch from its declared positions. Let us wait to see what Christopher will bring, said al-Hirawi.

Asked by one of those attending the meeting about Rabin's statement that a war against Syria is possible in three or more years, President al-Hirawi said: "This talk is meant for the Israelis and the opposition Likud bloc. Rabin is giving them a choice between a peace that dictates concessions and war with Syria in a few years. When Rabin says he will make painful decisions, he means withdrawal from the Golan."

What does all this mean for Lebanon?
The president answered: When we discuss withdrawal, security, and peace, it means the following:
Withdrawal from the occupied Syrian territory concerns Syria.
Peace with Israel concerns Israel.
ecurity concerns Lebanon.

Al-Hirawi explained this as follows: Does anyone think that Israel or the United States doubts Syria's ability to ensure security on the front if a full Israeli withdrawal is achieved? Of course not.

So it is Lebanon that is required to ensure security on the border after a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. Thank God, our army can protect the entire border and prevent the firing of a single bullet. If a withdrawal is achieved in accordance with Resolution 425, the Lebanese Army will deploy and ensure security for Lebanon and the Lebanese, exactly like others.

Reaction to 'Arafat's Return to Gaza Reported

JN0107184594 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has arrived in Gaza on a visit described by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] as a painful and sad return following 27 years of Israeli occupation, because it has taken place in accordance with Israeli permission and protection.

'Arafat left for Gaza via the Rafah crossing, which was guarded by a large number of Israeli police and army forces. Upon his arrival, he went to the Legislative Council's building in the city, guarded by hundreds of Palestinian policemen.

Despite the manifestations of the reception prepared over the past few days by Nabil Sha'th, a member of the Palestinian National Authority, observers noticed the absence of representatives of the Palestinian factions, such as Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], in an expression of a political stand opposing this visit.

'Arafat delivered a speech from Gaza's Legislative Council's square in which he tried to reply to the criticism leveled at him by the Palestinian factions about this visit, particularly regarding his return at a time when thousands of Palestinian prisoners are still inside the Israeli prisons.

Observers noted that in his speech, 'Arafat tried to please the Palestinian factions through repeated calls for national unity.

Reaction to this visit varied, for while it was welcomed by Israeli officials, the various Palestinian factions and forces inside the occupied Arab territories criticized the visit.

Yitzhaq Rabin said 'Arafat's visit will be successful if it ends the intifadah and undermines the positions of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shim'on Peres considered the visit as part of the implementation of the Palestinian self-rule agreement, noting that Israel's 27-year occupation of the Gaza Strip was a futile burden to Israel.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, official in charge of the Islamic Jihad Movement in the Gaza Strip, said 'Arafat's return to the strip follows many PLO concessions. Shaykh al-Shami noted that the limited Palestinian self-rule agreement has entrenched the Israeli occupation forces' control of crossings and air space.

Hamas member Shaykh Ahmad Bahr said 'Arafat's return has come at a time when the Palestinian people's aspirations for liberation and independence have not been achieved. In a broadcast statement, Bahr said Palestinians had wished that 'Arafat would be the last Palestinian deportee to return to his homeland.

PFLP member Rabah Muhanna said 'Arafat's return is within the framework of a serious political agreement that does not guarantee the return of all the Palestinian deportees to their homeland without discrimination.

Muhanna reiterated the PFLP's rejection of the self-rule agreement because it is an obstacle to achieving the Palestinian people's aspirations.

Papers Denounce 'Arafat's Visit

JN0107132994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Syria broke its silence today and denounced PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the Palestinian self-rule territories. Damascus viewed the visit as a humiliating step and a harsh blow against Arab coordination.

The official SYRIA TIMES newspaper wrote that the paradox is that 'Arafat managed to enter the self-rule territories only under the canopy of the stringent security measures Israel adopted.

As for TISHRIN newspaper, it says that the PLO leader's signing of a separate agreement with Israel has created a deep crack in the Arab front. The paper adds that the strength of Damascus lies in the fact that it is impossible to reach a comprehensive peace without Syria.

Commentary on U.S. Efforts in Peace Process

JN0407153494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: While U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is preparing to make a new tour of the region in a bid to advance the stumbling peace process, U.S. President Bill Clinton asserted that the only way to settle the Middle East problem was to continue the peace process itself. President Clinton also reiterated his administration's commitment to the peace process and expressed hope that a comprehensive peace would be achieved in the Middle East. This U.S. desire to establish peace will find a positive response from Syria, which has always stressed its desire to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in order to end the whirlpool of violence and aggression that has been going on in our region for half a century.

During the Geneva summit meeting between President Clinton and President Hafiz al-Asad, the U.S. Administration and President Clinton himself sensed that Syria was eager to achieve peace and that it supported its eagerness with deeds. It is Syria that opened the door for the Madrid conference, and if Syria had not agreed to attend it, the conference would not have been convened. It is also Syria that has been responding to U.S. and

Russian efforts for over two and a half years of bilateral negotiations in Washington. It also saved the peace process from collapse when Israel was trying to undermine it by committing repeated aggressions against Lebanon, deporting Palestinian citizens from their land and homes, and committing massacres and terrorism against our Arab people living under the yolk of occupation.

Syria's concern about peace and Damascus' honest effort to establish a just peace do not mean the relinquishment of any Arab right or the abandonment of any inch of the Golan or the occupied Arab territories, from which relevant international resolutions urge an unconditional Israeli withdrawal. Peace in the region has been Syria's firm goal and strategy for more than 20 years. Syria has responded to every honest initiative to build peace and end the continued state of aggression against the Arabs. It is also responding to U.S. and Russian efforts to achieve that noble goal and welcoming any endeavor to bring about just and comprehensive peace.

But peace cannot be established by one party. It needs the good intentions of all parties. Otherwise, it will continue to revolve in a vicious circle and will remain an unattainable hope. If the issue had been Syria's responsibility, peace would have been brought about in the region a long time ago. As the U.S. President and his secretary of state know, Syria has proved to be a peace-loving country and stressed its commitment to the peace process. It demands nothing more than its rights, which were recognized by the resolutions of international legitimacy and on which the U.S. initiative was based. By this, we mean the Arab territories and rights that Israel is trying to devour in broad daylight.

There is no doubt that the U.S. Administration knows that there will be no peace in the region without Syria and that partial agreements and unilateral settlements, no matter how they are surrounded by noisy celebrations, will not lead to peace that can stand fast and survive. The U.S. Administration knows well that the occupied Arab land is the core of the peace process, and any settlement or solution that does not return all these territories will never prevail.

These facts are well known to Washington as Christopher, the head of the U.S. diplomacy, is planning to make a new tour of the Middle East. It also knows very well the side that has been preventing peace and every real step toward that peace. The U.S. Administration has repeatedly stressed, through President Clinton, its commitment to its role as a fair mediator and partner in the peace process. This role requires efforts to remove obstacles preventing just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Israeli Attacks in Lebanon Said Pressuring U.S.

JN0507085394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "The South: A Painful Spot For The Israelis," AL-BA'TH says: The Zionist leadership acknowledges that southern Lebanon is a painful spot and that the southern quagmire has drowned Israeli soldiers in its mud and drowned the Israeli strategy in labyrinths which are bothering Israel and its aggression leaders. Despite the Zionist leadership's acknowledgement of this fact, the Israeli rulers are not deterred, rather they escalate their aggression against the Lebanese.

The paper adds: While the Lebanese in the south are defending their territory, Israel is claiming that its daily terrorism against the Lebanese territory is a kind of self-defense. The paper wonders how can an occupier continue to murder and occupy while the victim is not allowed to defend his own territory and rights?

The paper stresses that the battle against the Israeli occupation will not stop as long as the occupation remains and that the work for sake of peace cannot continue on the basis of Israeli conditions. The paper says: Israel must either end its occupation, or south Lebanon will remain a quagmire of death for its soldiers.

The paper adds: Every time the region approaches the atmosphere of detente, Israel finds a chance to spoil that detente by staging an aggression against Lebanon or by committing a massacre, similar to the carnage at the Hebron Mosque.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: The aggression against south Lebanon is part of the Israeli rulers' practices, not only to pressure Lebanon, but also to pressure the United States before its secretary of state starts a tour to the region. This confirms that Israel is not interested in peace, and that it seeks to impose its own conditions and not rid itself from the quagmire of death into which it drove itself.

Editorial Warns Against Israel-Controlled Middle East

JN0507092994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The New Order," TISHRIN says: It is now certain that the process of retreating in the face of Israel and submission to its conditions is in dire need of a glamorous theoretical context to justify the secret and separate deals that have taken place and to beautify Israel's ugly face among the Arab masses. This context is illustrated by the calls made these days to set up a new, different order in the Middle East that takes into account the developments that have taken place and that establishes a bright future for this region.

TISHRIN adds: Israel created the idea of the new Middle East order to realize its strategic objectives and inflict the greatest possible damage on the Arabs.

The paper adds: The plan for this new order seeks to enable Israel to impose its full political and economic tutelage over the Arab homeland and utilize its resources to finance the Zionist aggressive scheme, especially since the United States and Europe have begun to show irritation with the financial aid they offer to Israel.

The paper stresses that Israel is not only the base and center for this plan, but is also seeking to assume full control of it. Additionally, the said project aims at destroying the political elements of power in the Arab homeland by changing the current political map, imposing partition, disarming the Arabs, and seizing their wealth.

The paper warns against the threats of the said plan. It says: The new order, which they are seeking to promote now, will guarantee for Israel the power and control over the Arab wealth. It will also guarantee for Israel the tools for future changes in the Arab homeland. At the same time, it will inflict great damage on the Arabs. It will divide their affiliations, strike the chances for their unity, and turn them into mere servants for the Zionist aggressive and expansionist schemes.

The paper concludes by saying: This Israeli scheme confirms once again that Israel is not interested in just and comprehensive peace with the Arabs, but is planning to control the Arab homeland and turn it into a base to establish Greater Israel in the region.

Government 'Undeterred' by Rabin Statements on War

JN0207095494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article on the recent statements by the Israeli prime minister on war with Syria, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria will continue to hold out, to demonstrate courage, and to display concern for just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Yitzhaq Rabin has stated that he is not convinced of the usefulness of peace conferences. He has forgotten that the world community is well aware that his government has not viewed the peace process as a top priority. Since he assumed the premiership two years ago, he has been waging a multifaceted war against the Arabs, against peace, and particularly against Lebanon and Syria.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: Yitzhaq Rabin, who is engaged in war practices at present, and who declared that he could resort to war in the future, must recall the statements made by his Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to the effect that wars between Israel and its Arab neighbors have failed to resolve the Middle East conflict, that Israel's victory in the June 1967 war has not provided it with any guarantees, that Israel sustained enormous losses in human lives in the Yom Kippur war, and that war is useless.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Rabin government must heed a highly significant international event that has been recently celebrated by the international community; namely, the fall of the racist South African regime, Israel's ally—a development that fell in line with the peoples' will and the course of history.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Israel must realize that Syria is determined to remain as it is, and as it has always been; that is, to hold out, to demonstrate courage, and to show concern for just and comprehensive peace. Likewise, Israel must not show undue excitement over the breakthroughs it has made with some Arab states. This is because the Arab people, who will not abandon their rights, will have the final say in this regard.

In another article, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the terms of reference of the Madrid Middle East peace conference, affirming that it has become clear that the Tel Aviv rulers are making frenzied efforts to rid themselves of the Madrid formula, which is based on the holding of rounds of bilateral talks, because such an eventuality would kill the terms of reference of this conference, which are grounded in the land-for-peace formula. They seek to replace this formula, particularly on the Syrian track, with direct negotiations on the highest levels, the paper adds.

Afghanistan

Fresh Fighting Reported in Wardak Province

LD0307181194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Fighting continued today in Bala Hesar, Tappeh Maranjan, and other areas in the suburbs of Kabul. According to a report of the Islamic Republic News Agency, quoting sources close to Afghan President Rabbani, forces loyal to the president repulsed an attack of the opposition faction last night in the villages of Khodadad and Qala-Zamankhan near Tappeh Maranjan.

On the basis of this report, fresh fighting has begun in the Wardak province, west of Kabul, between the Hekmatyar's forces and the Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami of Sayyaf, who is an ally of Rabbani.

Coordination Council Agrees to ICO Cease-Fire Request

LD0407175194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Clashes between forces loyal to Afghanistan's president and prime minister continue south and southeast of Kabul.

According to a report from Kabul by the Central News Unit, in the course of these clashes which began last night, dozens of missiles hit Kabul, leaving 10 people dead and 50 injured.

The Coordination Council, opposing the presidency of Borhanoddin Rabbani in Afghanistan, agreed today to halt the fighting at the request of Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization. He said, however: This cease-fire should be accompanied by observance of the terms of the Islamabad accord.

Haj Farid, spokesman for the council, told an IRNA correspondent in Peshawar: Hamid Algabid should force Rabbani to resign to pave the way for negotiations on resolving the current conflict.

Rabbani, Hekmatyar Accept ICO Invitation

LD0407204294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] The president and prime minister of Afghanistan have responded positively to an invitation from Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], for negotiations on the Afghan problem. Our colleague reports from Islamabad:

[Unidentified correspondent] The president and prime minister of Afghanistan have responded positively to an invitation from ICO Secretary General Algabid for negotiations on the Afghan problem. A spokesman for the ICO secretary general said today: Mas'ud Khalili, the special envoy of the Afghan president in Islamabad, handed Algabid a message from Borhanoddin Rabbani, containing his positive response to the invitation.

Concerning the contents of the message, Rabbani's special envoy said: The president of Afghanistan has called for a cease-fire while the ICO peace delegation is visiting Kabul.

UN, ICO To Cooperate on Latest Initiative

LD0407132994 Tehran IRNA in English 1123 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Islamabad, July 4, IRNA—The United Nations may take new a 'peace initiative' on Afghanistan on the basis of its special mission report that is being released in a couple of days, U.N. sources told IRNA here Monday.

"The peace intitiative in no way be in clash [as received] with ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] efforts," they clarified.

"Rather we want that any effort on Afghanistan be made in collaboration with ICO and we have mentioned this in our report," compiled by a special mission, to be made public on Wednesday [6 July].

U.N. assistant secretary general and personal representative of Butrus Butrus-Ghali in Afghanistan and ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid, are currently on a visit to Pakistan, to discuss the ICO peace intitiative. Algabid is said to have prepared a 'draft plan' for resolving the present Afghan conflict and intended to invite all Afghan leaders for a conference to deliberate on this proposed plan.

The U.N. sources said the UN envoy had meetings with representatives of Afghan Supreme Coordination Council led by Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar. The sources said the Supreme Council has proposed a joint Afghan commission to be formed for convening the grand assembly to decide the future of their war-ravaged country. The sources said that President Borhanoddin Rabbani has already shown readiness to transfer his powers to an elected Afghan leadership and, "it seems that both sides are conversing towards a common point". The U.N. can play a vital role at this stage, the sources maintained. They said head of U.N. special mission on Afghanistan Mahmoud Mestiri is expected here in next week.

Mestiri earlier visited Pakistan and Afghanistan and held meetings with all Afghan leaders including President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar.

To a question that ICO was concentrating its efforts on nine Afghan leaders while UN was bracketing Afghan intellectuals including ex-King Zahir Shah in their negotiations, the sources said, "whatever we do reflect what Afghans tell us".

The sources enumerated formation of a decision making forum for Afghans, a neutral national guard for the security of Kabul and an end to foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan vital for restoring peace in that country.

Meanwhile, ICO Secretary General Dr. Algabid today left here for Peshawar to hold further discussions with Afghan leaders on his proposed plan. He may proceed to Afghanistan at the end of current week to meet Rabbani and his arch rival Hekmatyar.

Urging the need for more financial and humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan by interational bodies and donor countries, the sources said that all U.N. organisations for humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan were going to hold their first ever meeting inside Afghanistan. The meeting will be held in Jalalabad Tuesday.

Iran

Yazdi Refutes Peres' Remarks on Islamism

LD0407173994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Excerpt] At a meeting of the country's judicial officials, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Judicial Branch, referred to the anniversary of the attack against an Iranian passenger plane by an American warship. He said: The suggestibility of the court at The Hague and its abstaining from investigating the case were unexpected, regrettable to free thinking people, and disheartening for those interested in international law.

On Shim'on Peres' visit to Central Asia and his comments on the threat of Islamism, he said: Islamism is a call to basic human nature and conscience to struggle against tyranny and oppression, which not only does not pose any threat to nations and popular governments, but contributes toward peace and stability and the independence and consolidation of popular governments. [passage omitted]

Majles Officials Meet With Yemeni Delegation

LD0407181294 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Iranian officials here Monday [4 July] in separate meetings briefed the visiting Yemenese delegation on Tehran's position on immediate cessation of the civil war and on the unity of Yemen.

Head of the Majles Culture and Islamic Guidance Committee, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Reza Taqavi in his meeting with Yemenese parliamentarians, announced Islamic Iran's support for Yemen's unity and called for a halt to the ongoing clashes. He said continuation of war in Yemen is against the interests of the Yemenese nation and in the favour of hegemonist powers. Taqavi called on the warring sides to heal the rift and prevent further destruction of their country's potentials. The two sides also discussed latest developments in the civil war.

In a separate meeting with the head of the Majles Judiciary Committee, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohasel Hamedani, the Yemenese MPs offered a report on recent developments in the internal clashes in Yemen. Hamedani urged an immediate end to the war and called on Yemenese people to knit ranks and prevent divisions. The Yemenese delegation also informed Hamedani of judiciary structure in their country. The Yemenese MPs also visited the mausoleum of the father of the Islamic revolution later today to pay their respects.

Protestant Clergyman Murdered in Tehran

NC0407124494 Paris AFP in English 1136 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 4 (AFP)—The pastor at a small Iranian Protestant church was shot dead here last week in mysterious circumstances, the second Protestant leader murdered this year, his relatives said Monday [4 July].

Tedhis Mikhailyan, pastor at the Protestant Evangelical Church of Tehran, disappeared last Wednesday in the Iranian capital and his body was found on Saturday, church officials said.

The pastor of another Protestant church in Iran, the Assembly of God's Haik Hovsepyan, was murdered in Tehran in January.

The Evangelical Protestant church has a following of some 2,000 people in Iran, according to members, and has close links to the Assembly of God. There are a total of six Protestant denominations in the country claiming a total of 10,000 to 15,000 followers.

Officials at the Evangelical Church said earlier that Mikhailyan, an Iranian Armenian, was a successor to Hovsepyan who was abducted while on his way to Tehran airport and then murdered.

The police contacted by AFP confirmed the killing but did not provide any details.

Mikhailyan, 62, was killed by two bullets, one in the head and another in the chest, his relatives told AFP.

They said the pastor had left home on Wednesday afternoon in his car, but never returned.

The relatives notified the police of Mikhailyan's disappearance on Wednesday night, but did not hear an answer. They first came across the body at the Tehran morgue on Saturday morning after they went there to enquire, the relatives said.

The police refused to disclose the place where the body had been found "for some considerations" or give any other details, but said they hadn't been able to find the car.

Relatives said the pastor enjoyed "good relations" with the authorities in Iran and had been asked to teach at Tehran University and a theological school at the holy city of Qom in central Iran.